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MARKET TURBULENCE

Piyush blames China's 'trade practices'

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Congress to focus on DCCs at Ahmedabad session

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How the police view custodial torture in India

Data reveal acceptance of coercive tactics

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NARROW WIN

Mohun Bagan makes the ISL summit clash

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LPG cylinder pricier by ₹50; petrol, diesel excise raised by ₹2

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Monday raised the price of domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by ₹50 a cylinder, in both subsidised and non-subsidised categories. While it also notified an increase in the excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹2, there will be no impact on retail prices.

The excise duty is now set at ₹13 and ₹10 a litre for petrol and diesel, respectively.

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said that the excise duty was raised to compensate oil marketing companies (OMCs) for selling LPG cylinders at a loss, in spite of the steady increase in the gas price over the past few years internationally.

"The excise increase is intended to compensate the oil marketing companies for the ₹43,000 crore that they have incurred as a loss on the gas part [of their businesses]," Mr. Puri said.

> The excise increase is intended to compensate OMCs for the ₹43,000 crore that they have incurred as a loss
>
> **HARDEEP SINGH PURI**
> Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas

The Minister categorically denied that the duty was being increased to prepare fiscally for any "headwinds" as a result of the U.S. tariffs.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Indian indices plunge as trade war fears grip global markets

Market opens on Monday over 5% down from close on Friday amid concerns over looming recession, recovers gradually to close at 3% loss; Trump threatens China with more tariffs over its retaliation plans, welcomes countries wishing to negotiate

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Not since the historic lows of the COVID-19 crashes have global markets witnessed such drastic falls. Indian stock markets plunged on Monday anticipating uncertainties that could emerge from the trade war between the U.S. and China, two of the world's largest economies, and the fear of a looming recession.

Influenced by global cues, the markets which opened over 5% down from the previous close on Friday gradually recovered during the day with frontline indices closing with a loss of 3% led by falls across the board.

Small and midcap stocks witnessed more losses compared with bluechip stocks. The S&P BSE Sensex closed with a loss of 2,227 points, or 2.95%, at 73,138 points, led by Tata Steel which fell 7.73%, and L&T 5.78%. Tata Motors fell 5.54% after news came in that its subsidiary Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has halted exports to the U.S.

Kotak Mahindra Bank was down 4.33% and M&M fell 4.11%, while Infosys was down 3.75%.

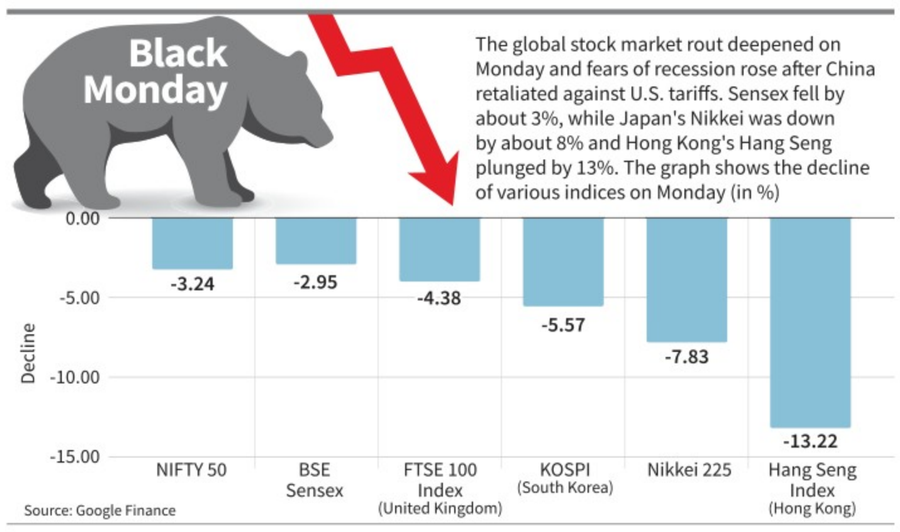
The NSE Nifty-50 index (Nifty), which recovered during the day, closed at 22,162, down 743 points or 3.24%.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump threatened additional tariffs on imports from China if Beijing did not withdraw its retaliation plans, adding Washington would begin negotiations with other countries if they wish to.

"If China does not withdraw its 34% increase above their already long term trading abuses by tomorrow, April 8th, 2025, the United States will impose ADDITIONAL Tariffs on China of 50%, effective April 9th," Mr. Trump said in a Truth Social post, intensifying what appears to be the beginning of an unprecedented trade war.

The sombre mood on Dalal Street was also reflected among its peers in Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and China.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS ON » PAGES 13 & 14



NEARBY

Re-asphalting of 80.8 km of key stretches begins

BENGALURU
BBMP on Monday began work on re-asphalting 80.8 km of critical stretches where previous asphalting works were deemed inadequate or had deteriorated at an estimated cost of ₹187.50 crore. » PAGE 3

AAI team briefed about sites for second airport

BENGALURU
A multidisciplinary team from the AAI — on a visit to Karnataka to inspect three locations that have been identified for Bengaluru's second international greenfield airport — was briefed by KSIIDC officials on Monday. » PAGE 4

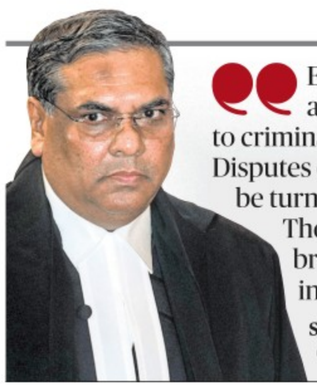
Civil disputes turn criminal cases: CJI says breakdown of rule of law in U.P.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Monday found it "absurd" that ordinary civil disputes are being converted to criminal cases "day in and day out in Uttar Pradesh", reflecting a complete breakdown of the law and order machinery in the State.

"Every day, civil suits are being converted to criminal cases. It is absurd. Disputes over civil issues cannot be turned into offences... There is a complete breakdown of rule of law in Uttar Pradesh," Chief Justice Khanna, heading a three-judge Bench, including Justices Sanjay Kumar and K.V. Viswanathan, observed.

> Every day, civil suits are being converted to criminal cases. It is absurd. Disputes over civil issues cannot be turned into offences... There is a complete breakdown of rule of law in Uttar Pradesh
>
> **SANJIV KHANNA**
> Chief Justice of India



The remarks came during the hearing of an appeal filed by Debu Singh and Deepak Singh against an Allahabad High Court decision declining to quash a criminal case filed against them.

The duo facing a cheque bounce case had suddenly found themselves chargesheeted for criminal offences, including breach of trust, intimidation, and criminal conspiracy. Their counsel said the registration of criminal cases was a ploy to reach a speedy resolution as civil disputes took a long time.

The top court stayed the criminal proceedings against the two men, but said the case against the dishonoured cheque would continue.

The Chief Justice said the police officer investigating the case should be made to stand in the witness box during trial to explain his move to make a matter of cheque bounce into a criminal case.

"Let the investigating officer stand in the witness box and make out a case of crime. Let him learn his lesson. This is not the way you file chargesheets," Chief Justice Khanna said.

The court directed the Director-General of Police and the investigating officer to file affidavits in two weeks, giving reasons for setting the criminal law in motion in a civil dispute. The court listed the case for May 5.

Valley of flowers

Blooming joy: Tourists flock to the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, the largest tulip garden in Asia, set against the Zabarwan hills in Srinagar, on Monday. The garden opened for the season on March 26. AFP

CM: Services of pourakarmikas will be regularised on May Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday announced that the government would regularise the services of pourakarmikas (municipal workers) on May 1, which is observed as International Workers' Day.

At present, work of thousands of pourakarmikas has been outsourced in various urban local bodies, including city corporations, and they have been demanding regularisation of services.

The Chief Minister, who inaugurated the 25th anniversary celebrations of the pourakarmikas' union, said that workers in urban local bodies had been working following the principle of "Work is worship" advocated by the 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara.

Noting the decline in the number of people joining the profession in urban local bodies, the Chief Minister said it was the responsibility of the government to fulfill their demands on priority. Mr. Siddaramaiah said there was no difference between the Chief Secretary and the pourakarmikas because services of both were sacred.

One should not look down on their profession and all pourakarmikas deserved dignity and respect, he said, promising regularisation of services of pourakarmikas.

The services of drivers of vehicles who had been hired on contract basis too would be regularised, the Chief Minister noted.

II PU results to be out today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The II PU results for 2024-25 will be announced on Tuesday by Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa at the KSEAB office at 12.30 p.m.

The results will be available on the website https://karresults.nic.in from 1.30 p.m. Simultaneously, the board will also send the results to registered mobile numbers of students via SMS.

The board successfully conducted the examination from March 1 to 20 at 1,172 centres across the State and around 7.13 lakh students including 3.35 lakh boys, 3.78 lakh girls, and five transgender students appeared for it.

Kamra's protection extended; Bombay HC to hear plea today

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Monday extended until April 17 the interim protection from arrest granted to stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra in connection with a case over alleged slanderous remarks against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Meanwhile, the Bombay High Court on Monday agreed to hear on Tuesday a criminal writ petition filed by Mr. Kamra on April 5 seeking an urgent hearing to quash the first information report (FIR) registered against him. Advocate Navroz Seervai, representing Mr. Kamra, requested a Division Bench to accept the petition, originally listed for hearing on April 21, with urgency as the artiste has been facing numerous death threats.

Kunal Kamra

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Farmers leave tomatoes in fields in Kolar district as price drops to ₹2 a kg

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Summer is the time when most fruits and vegetables get expensive. But in a twist of events, the price of tomatoes has crashed to as low as ₹2-₹5 per kg in Kolar district, which is a major vegetable growing belt in Karnataka. This has led to many farmers leaving the tomatoes in the field, unharvested during the onset of summer.

The farmers said the selling price of one box (15 kg) of tomatoes is anywhere between ₹30 to ₹200 (₹2 per kg to ₹13 per kg) at the Kolar Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC).

"To get the labour to harvest the tomatoes and then transport them, we have to incur a cost of ₹70 per box. If what we are getting in the market is only ₹30 - ₹50 per box, we will go through a loss of ₹20 per box. There is no point in harvesting it and taking it to the APMC where we also have to pay a commission," said Venkat Reddy, a tomato farmer from Kolar district. In both Kolar and Chickballapur districts, the situation is similar.

Tomatoes have sold at record highs in the last couple of years and the current prices are the lowest they have been in a long time. So, what has caused the price crash? Farmers say the prices have been falling for almost six months, more so in the last two months and now in the last few days have hit their lowest. Increased production, inflow from neighbouring states and reduced quality are also other reasons why the price has taken a hit.

"The exports have almost stopped in recent days due to the reduced shelf life of our tomatoes. We previously used to send them to Pakistan, Bangladesh, and many other South Asian countries. To send them to these countries from Kolar would take two to three days. But tomatoes are getting rotten in that period. The overall yield has not been high due to bingi (leaf curl disease) in the last five years," said Nalini Gowda, president, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, Kolar district.

Bengaluru markets not affected

While farmers are struggling with the crashed prices, the selling price of tomatoes in Bengaluru was around ₹25-₹30 per kg. Traders say there is a mismatch in the prices due to the logistical charges they have to incur.

"Transport charges have gone up now with diesel prices. We have to pay by the load and irrespective of the prices of the commodity, we have to pay those transport charges. Plus, we have to keep at least a small profit margin. Hence, we are selling at ₹25 per kg," said Narayana a vegetable vendor in Yelahanka.

Pant's middling white-ball record not in tune with his talent

The 27-year-old has had a rough start to his stint with Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League. It is in keeping with his moderate numbers in the shorter formats, something that he will want to correct as he progresses further in his career

K.V.S. GIRI

Vivek Krishnan

As Rishabh Pant began his disconsolate walk back to the dressing room after being dismissed against Mumbai Indians in Lucknow Super Giants' Indian Premier League (IPL) match, the television cameras panned to Sanjiv Goenka offering a wry smile in the VIP enclosure. The reaction of the LSG honcho whenever Pant loses his wicket has been a matter of recurring interest in this year's IPL. And it isn't merely because the franchise shelled out a record ₹27 crore for the star wicketkeeper-batter in the last mega auction.

It also stems from Goenka's reputation as an obtrusive owner who doesn't hold back from openly expressing his displeasure to players following a poor performance. It came to the surface last year when visuals of an animated Goenka offering then skipper K.L. Rahul a dressing-down on the field – you didn't have to be a lip-reading expert to work that out – after a humbling defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad did the rounds on social media. The episode seemed to strain the relationship between Goenka and Rahul, even though some damage limitation was attempted in the very next game with the two exchanging forceful smiles in a post-match interaction in front of the cameras. It was to nobody's surprise that the franchise subsequently released Rahul and showed no interest in his services during the auction.

How long then before Goenka's wry smiles turn into visible frustration with Pant? Having occupied the hot seat following Rahul's exit, the 27-year-old has had a far from auspicious start to his stint with LSG, tallying just 19 runs across four matches including a six-ball blob in his very first outing. It's perhaps best not to dwell on his numbers in the ongoing season, for an average of 4.75 and a strike rate of 59.38 after the first two weeks of the IPL are egregious anomalies. It can happen to anyone in a format where you are obligated to attack from the outset.

Cold numbers

The southpaw is bound to better his scores, which read 0, 15, 2, 2 right now, as the season progresses. But there is something more fundamental to this discussion than just Pant's lean stretch at the beginning of this season. It is that his white-ball career as a whole hasn't risen to the heights that were widely expected. Be it when he has donned the blue of India or during his nine-year association with Delhi Capitals in the IPL before his big-money move to LSG, Pant's perceived destructiveness as a white-ball player – blessed as he is with ferocious power to muscle the ball down the ground as well as the cheekiness to manufacture shots behind the wicket – hasn't translated into match-winning performances in reality. Not on enough occasions anyway. Cold numbers bear testimony.

Over 76 T20Is for India, which is a significant sample size, he has scored 1209 runs at an average of 23.25 and a strike rate of 127.26. The subpar average can be excused given Pant's high-risk nature, but the latter figure, at a time when the best players in the slam-bang version are striking at over 160, indicates that his extravagant strokeplay hasn't been up to scratch either. As the No. 3 batter in India's T20 World Cup triumph in the United States and Caribbean last year, Pant did begin the tournament with a couple of vital contributions against Ireland and Pakistan on surfaces inimical to big-hitting. But as the event reached its climax, he slipped back to being the batter who hasn't fully found his footing in coloured clothing.

In ODI cricket, where opportunities have been fewer, his 31 matches have produced 871 runs at an unremarkable average of 33.5. There was a feeling that Pant may have turned a corner in his white-ball career when he walloped an unbeaten 125 off 113 deliveries to steer India to a successful chase of 260 in an ODI series decider against England in Manchester in July 2022, but a horrific car accident towards the end of that year derailed his progress. He has only featured in four 50-over games since. While he was part of India's 15-member squad that won the Champions Trophy in Dubai last month, it was a spot on the bench that he had to be content with right through as Rahul, the first-choice wicketkeeper-batter, offered no reason with his performances for the think-tank to look elsewhere.

In the IPL, his overall numbers are decent. But for a player as outrageously gifted as Pant, the expectations are bound to be sky-high. By the yardsticks used to gauge IPL's A-listers, it is fair to say Pant has underwhelmed. Not since 2018, after all, has he breached the 500-run mark in an edition. Just 20 years old then, he was actually otherworldly during that season, smashing 684 runs at 52.61 while also achieving a strike rate of 173.6. But he hasn't come close to replicating that grand run thereafter. That he has managed only seven half-centuries in his last 57 IPL matches illustrates the point.

All of this is in marked contrast to his resounding impact in Test cricket. Despite the five-match series in Australia recently not yielding favourable rewards for the intrepid strokemaker – Sunil Gavaskar's irate response on air ('Stupid! Stupid! Stupid!') to one of Pant's dismissals has predictably turned into content for an ad featuring the two prior to this IPL – he is already arguably India's most distinguished keeper-batter in Tests. His 2,948 runs after 43 Tests, while averaging 42.11, entail match-defining contributions etched in our collective memory. And these performances have been clocked up across the world: he is the only Indian gloveman with Test centuries in Australia, England and South Africa.

The Sehwag syndrome?

Pant's middling white-ball career is reminiscent in a sense to what another fearless dasher from Delhi, or Najafgarh to be precise, went through. Predisposed to treating bowlers with utter disdain long before it became the sine qua non of modern-day batting, Virender Sehwag should have blossomed against the white ball as much as he did against the red cherry over his 14-year spell in international cricket. It was only in the latter part of his career, however, that Sehwag truly began to optimise his ability in 50-over cricket. Perhaps the spread-out fields post the initial phase of restrictions in the shorter formats was a factor. In Tests, slip cordons and attacking fields for longer durations often played into his hands, allowing him to pounce on the faintest error and capitalise with a spree of boundaries.

There are certainly more open spaces in the outfield for Pant to exploit while donning the white flannels. But with captains more inclined to setting in-out fields than ever before in Tests, it's not as if Pant hasn't shown the smarts to manoeuvre the ball into gaps and pick his moments to brandish his scything willow for fours and sixes in the classical version. It is perhaps a matter of Pant applying these skills in the other formats consistently enough.

In this IPL campaign, there hasn't been a discernible pattern to his wickets to underline a pressing chink. If there is a facet of his game that can get better nevertheless, it is his off-side play. The deliveries that have accounted for his downfall have ranged from an almost waist-high full toss by Harshal Patel to a rank long hop by Glenn Maxwell. To excessively ponder over these dismissals in a format where, at the cost of repetition, these things tend to happen would be unreasonable. But the fact that it is Pant who is going through this poor phase, rather than someone with an illustrious white-ball record, means that the scrutiny will not go away in a hurry.

The expensive price tag – he is the costliest buy in IPL history – only fuels the pressure. LSG coach Justin Langer was asked about Pant's form after the team's victory over MI in the previous game.

"He will be fine," the Australian reassured. "I have got one job, it's just to keep him smiling. Because when you come into a new franchise, often you try so hard. There are a lot of expectations. He is the captain of the team. With that often comes pressure. Nobody understands that pressure. There are probably a dozen out of a billion people in this country who understand that pressure. We will keep him smiling and keep him relaxed. We have won 50% of our games and Rishabh hasn't made many runs yet. Imagine when he does start making runs. I cannot wait to see that."

Pant will hope that moment arrives against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens on Tuesday. Goenka and the LSG faithful will flash a gleeful smile for the cameras as and when it happens.

AP

THE GIST

- Pant's white-ball career as a whole hasn't risen to the heights that were widely expected. Pant's perceived destructiveness as a white-ball player hasn't translated into match-winning performances in reality
- In this IPL campaign, there hasn't been a discernible pattern to his wickets to underline a pressing chink. If there is a facet of his game that can get better nevertheless, it is his off-side play
- The expensive price tag — he is the costliest buy in IPL history — only fuels the pressure. Pant will hope that moment arrives against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens on Tuesday. Goenka and the LSG faithful will flash a gleeful smile for the cameras as and when it happens

LPG cylinder price hike adds strain on household budgets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move that could further strain household budgets, the price of domestic LPG cylinders has been increased by ₹50,sparking concern among citizens already grappling with rising costs of living. With the revision, Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries will now pay ₹553 for a 14.2 kg cylinder up from ₹503. General category customers will see their cylinder price rise from ₹803 to ₹853.

"For a middle-class family like ours, every rupee counts," said Geeta Sharma, a homemaker in Banaswadi. "We've already cut back on a lot, recently the State government increased milk prices. Now, even basic cooking is becoming expensive. How much more should we adjust?"

Daily wage earners and lower-income groups are feeling the pinch more acutely. "We got connection under Ujjwala scheme, but what's the point if we can't afford refills?" said Manjunath K.M., an autorickshaw driver in BTM layout.

Current evaluation system put into practice even for repeaters

As per the order issued by RGUHS, the marks from the best of two evaluations will be considered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) has issued an evaluation ordinance implementing the current evaluation system even for repeaters of undergraduate students of batches of 2018-19 or before.

As per the order issued following a decision taken at the syndicate meeting held on April 4, even for repeaters, the marks from the best of the two evaluations will be considered.

At present, for repeaters, the university is considering average marks from

four evaluations.

This has been a long-standing demand of repeater students, even as they held protests demanding the same, some even approached the court over the same. The university

This has been a long-standing demand of repeater students, some even approached the court over it

wrote to the National Medical Commission (NMC) and with the Commission raising no objection to making the change, the Syndicate passed an ordinance to consider the evaluation norms followed for freshers, even for repeaters.

"The low pass percentage among repeaters was due to the existing evaluation system – to consider an average of four evaluations. Now even for repeaters the best of two evaluations will be applicable," said the officials of RGUHS. Pass percentage among repeaters was not more than 45%, sources said.

MBBS students from the 2018-19 batch, at the forefront of the demand for this change, have welcomed the decision.

"There was so much disparity in the marks awarded by four evaluators. I myself experienced this – one evaluator marked me 70 marks while another marked 10 marks from the same answer sheet," he said.

Cheluvarayaswamy is a 'joker', says Kumaraswamy

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy hit out at Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy on Monday, calling him 'joker'.

'No point'

"I won't respond to jokers. There is no point in responding to people, who don't even know the issue," Mr. Kumaraswamy said, referring to his friend-turned-foe Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy's reported statement blaming former PM H.D. Deve Gowda for the loss of IIT to Mandya.

Farm varsity in Mandya

With regard to setting up of a farm university in Mandya, Mr. Kumaraswamy said he had already welcomed the move. However, as an Agriculture Minister, he should first check the status of VC Farm. "What is the condition of the farm and its staff? Does he know that," he asked.

On Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy's claims that he brought medical college and KSRTC division to Mandya, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the Agriculture Minister was not a Minister for even six months in 2004.

"He would not let me go home even at 3 a.m.", Mr Kumaraswamy said, remarking that his health was ruined by staying around such people.

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION

TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works.

Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Approximate Cost of the work	Earnest Money	Completion period of the work	Maintenance Period
05-2025-SrDENC	1-Upgradations of way side stations, service building and quarters in colonies JTRD, KVK, ARAG, DLGN in KWV MRJ section under ADEN/PVR 2-Special Track work in view of annual track inspection in KWV-MRJ section under ADEN/PVR in Solapur division	Rs. 4,57,57,002.07	Rs. 37,8,800.00	06 Months	12 Months
Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website.		30.04.2025 upto 15:00 hrs			
Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in		30.04.2025 at 15:30 hrs			

The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisonal Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur

SUN 62 असुरक्षित तथा अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन के पास कार्य करना दंडनीय अपराध है

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kumar. S S/o Late L. Siddaiah, aged about 58 years, R/A No.28, Anugraha, Ramakrishna Layout, Nagadevanahalli, Jnanabharathi Post, Bengaluru, working as Assistant Registrar, Karnataka Appellate Tribunal, 1st Gate, 2nd Floor, M.S. Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Road, Bengaluru do hereby solemnly state that, in my SSLC Marks Card my name is mentioned as **KUMAR.** But in my Aadhaar Card and other documents it is mentioned as **KUMAR. S** I swear that both these names belongs and refers to same person i.e., me only. I also swear that I will continue as **KUMAR. S** for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 07.04.2025 sworn to Notary.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Mrs.Rani W/o Mr.Nagaraju** to bring the notice of the general public that the **Original registered absolute sale deed bearing doc.No.KRI-1-08920/2023-24 of Book-I, date.23.09.2023,** registered in the office of the sub-registrar K.R.Pura, Bangalore executed by **Mr.S.Naveen Kumar S/o Mr.M.R.Shivanna** in favour of **Mrs.Rani W/o Mr.Nagaraju** is missing / lost / misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential property **Site No.17,** BBMP Katha for the composite property bearing No.16/6/395, Katha Sl.No.851, formed in converted Sy.No.16/6, situated at **Basavanapura Village, K.R.Pura Hobli, Bangaluru East Taluk,** now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West : On Northern side 19 ½ feet, on southern side 23 ½ feet and North to South 41 feet, in all measuring **881 ½ Sq.Ft.,** and bounded on :

East by : Site No.16, West by : Private Property, North by : Road, South by : Remaining Portion of same Sy.No.16/6.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

Bangalore Development Authority

office of the Executive Engineer, North Division, Bangalore

No.BDA/EE/North/TEN/T-37/2024-25 Dated: 07.04.2025

SHORT TERM INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Through Gok e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Bangalore Development Authority inivites from eligible bidders for the following work:

Name of the Work: Providing Consultancy Services-preparation for DPR for Construction of Sports Complex at Kacharakanahalli Ground in Ward No.76. **EMD:** Rs. 1,00,000/-, Tender Processing Fee in Rs. Refer e- Procurement website. **Time for completion:** Till completion of the Project and further DLP period of 2 years. Tender document can be downloaded from the e-procurement **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Bids shall be submitted online through e-procurement platform from **09.04.2024** onwards. For any enquiries please contact Executive Engineer, North Division, Bangalore. Mob: 6362952961.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, North Division, BDA, Bangalore.

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH

(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433
Tele Fax:080-26534625/477 | e-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for the following items in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka:

Sl. No.	Tender Notification / Indent No.	Particulars
1.	SJICR/2024-25/IND0025 dtd: 07-04-2025	Supply of Dry Tissue Technology (DTT) TAVI/TAVR (Trans catheter Aortic Valve implant/ Replacement- self expanding / Balloon expanding on consignment basis.
2.	SJICR/2025-26/IND0026 dtd: 07-04-2025	Supply of Medical equipment.

The tenderers can download the documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **08.04.2025** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **21.04.2025 upto 4:00 PM.**

1. Date of Pre bid meeting : **15.04.2025 at 11:30 AM.**
2. Date of Technical Bid opening: **22.04.2025 at 4:00 PM.**
3. EMD: as mentioned in the tender document
4. For further details please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
5. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MALUR, KOLAR DISTRICT, KOLAR

Maharaja circle Malur-563130
E-mail: ka.malur.tmc@gmail.com, phone:08151-232238
Letter No:TMC/JE/E-Proc/CR/02/2025-26 Date:04.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(as per the conditions of the Standarad Tender Document E-Procuement Tender Notification)

Construction of Roads Work in Malur TMC item rate is invited in two bid cover system through E-Procurement Portal. For more details visit KPPP Portal The Indent Numbers details below. Any addendums will be notified through e-procurement only.

sl.no	work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs.In lakhs)
01	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36491	145.00
02	DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT36684	997.00
03	DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT36685	997.00
04	DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT37115	2052.00

Sd/- President TMC, Malur | Sd/- Vice president TMC, Malur | Sd/- Standing committee President TMC, Malur | Sd/- Chief officer TMC, Malur

DIPR/KOLAR/R.O.No.08/KSMC&A/2025-26

ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಚಿತ್ತಾಪೂರ ರೋಡ್, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ – 585202.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08473–253736 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: dcydr@ksp.gov.in

ಸಂ:ಸಂಗ್ರಹ/36/ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:05.04.2025.

:: ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :

ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ನಗರದ 27 ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 54 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಐ.ಪಿ ಬುಲೆಟ್ ಕ್ಯಾಮರಾಗಳು, 04 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಪಿಟಿಜೆಡ್ ಕ್ಯಾಮರಾಗಳು ಮತ್ತು 04 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಎ.ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಆರ್ ಕ್ಯಾಮರಾಗಳನ್ನು ಆಳವಡಿಸಲು ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಏಜೇನ್ಸಿ (ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ) ಯವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯ (KTPP Act) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಜಾಲತಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: Tender No. KSP/2025-26/IND0292 2) ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.04.2025. 3) ಟೆಂಡರಗೆ ಸಂಬಧಿಸಿದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.04.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.30PM ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 4) ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು, ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು **E-Procurement portal** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.04.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.30PM ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.04.2025 TIME:11:30 AM 6) ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.04.2025 TIME: 11:30 AM 7) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ: 52,48,817/– 8) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.: 1,05,000/– 9) ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ: Superintendent of Police, Yadgir.Ph: 08473–253736

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/16/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2025–26 ಸಹಿ/– ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

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Website: https://karnatakabank.com
CIN: L85110KA1924PLC001128

PUBLIC E-AUCTION

NOTICE OF SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ON 13.05.2025

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) / Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Constructive Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer (details mentioned below), will be sold on **"As is where is"and "As is what is" basis on 13.05.2025** at the below mentioned timings for recovery of dues with further interest and cost thereon due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

The details are as under: Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **12.05.2025 at 4.00 pm** through online payment to the Account No. details of which are given below or by way of DD favouring **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors/ Co-Obligants and Loan Account No.	Balance O/S Rs. Future Interest From + Costs	Possession Date Possession Type	Description of the Property/ies	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Auction Time	Incremental Value of the Bid	Branch Name & Account Details for Remitting EMD/ IFSC Code
1	**(1) M/s. Vedha Engineers and Contractors Pvt Ltd, Represented by its Directors (a) Mr. Ramesh V Ajagannavar & (b) Mr. Madhukeshwara G M (2) Mr. Ramesh V Ajagannavar** S/o Mr. Veerabasappa **(3) Mr. Madhukeshwara G M** S/o Mr. Mahadevappa, **All are addressed at:** No.14 & 15, Ground Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Veda Tower, Lake Road, Kengunte Cross, Mallathahalli, Bengaluru-560056. **Loan A/c Nos.: (1) OD A/c No.1047000100156001 (2) PSTL A/c No.1047001800166601**	Total Rs. 3,54,81,396.22 [(1) Rs. 3,28,49,666.46 01.04.2025 + (2) Rs. 26,31,729.76 11.03.2025]	28.02.2025 Constructive	**Item No.1:** All that part and parcel of **residential vacant property bearing Site No.5/1, measuring 2400 sq ft, BBMP Khatha No.870/194/28/28/2,** situated at Srigandhakaval, D- Group Layout, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560091 belonging to **Mr. Ramesh V Ajagannavar. Boundaries of property as per Document: East by:** Property of A Jayashankar/ Vacant Plot, **West by:** Site No.5/2/ Vacant Plot, **North by:** Site of Rajajinagar Housing Society/Vacant Plot & Residential Building, **South by:** Road. **Property Location: Latitude & Longitude: 12.973245, 77.500397**	Rs. 1,95,00,000/-	Rs. 19,50,000/-	12.05 PM to 12.25PM	Rs. 1,00,000/-	Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bengaluru –Basaveshwarnagar A/c No. 1043500200004101 IFSC - KARB0000104
				Item No.2: All that part and parcel of **residential vacant property bearing Site No.5/2, measuring 2400 sq ft, BBMP Khatha No.869/194/28/28/2,** situated at Srigandhakaval, D- Group Layout, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560091 belonging to **Mr. Madhukeshwara G M. Boundaries of property as per Document/Actual: East by:** Site No.5/1/ Site No.5/1 & Vacant Plot, **West by:** Site No.5/3, **North by:** Site of Rajajinagar Housing Society/Vacant Plot, **South by:** Road. **Property Location: Latitude & Longitude: 12.973245, 77.500397**	Rs. 1,95,00,000/-	Rs. 19,50,000/-	12.30 PM to 12.50 PM		
2	**(1) M/s. Vanshee Builders & Developers Pvt. Ltd. Represented by its Managing Director, Mrs. G Vanitha, Addressed at:** No.707, 7th Main Road, HAL, 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Near IDBI Bank, Bengaluru-560038, **(2) Mrs. G Vanitha,** W/o Mr. G Prabhu, **(3) Mr. G Prabhu,** S/o Mr. Ganesh Reddy, **No. 2 and 3 are residing at:** Flat No. 302, Umiya Orchid, No.228, 6th Cross, 2nd Main, Defence Colony, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560038. **Loan A/c Nos.: (1) TL A/c No. 1097001600735401 (2) TL A/c No. 1097001600740201**	Total Rs. 41,62,66,480.90 [(1) Rs. 32,35,70,361.98 11.03.2025 + (2) Rs. 9,26,96,118.92 11.03.2025]	19.10.2024 Constructive	All that part and parcel of the **commercial land bearing Survey No.92/4, BBMP, measuring 29.12 Guntas (25,537.05 sq.ft.),** bearing (i.e 70% share in the total land area of **36,481.50 sq.ft)** together with 70% share (i.e.**1,03,702.20 sq ft** as per Partition Deed), in total built up area of 1,48,146.00 sq.ft. in the Building constructed thereon as detailed here in below: Basement Floor-22,594.60 sq.ft, Ground Floor-12,835.90 sq.ft, First Floor-12,835.90 sq.ft, Second Floor-16,046.80 sq.ft, Third Floor-16,046.80 sq.ft, Fourth Floor-16,046.80 sq.ft, Terrace Floor-7,295.40 sq.ft. Total area= 1,03,702.20 sq.ft, along with 70% of undivided right, share interest & title on the total land property, situated at Munnekolalu Village, Varthur Hobli, Outer Ring Road, Marathahalli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru-560037 belonging to **M/s. Vanshee Builders & Developers Pvt. Ltd. Boundaries of Property as per documents/actuals: East by:** Ring Road/Service Road, **West by:** Land of Mr. Papaiah/Residential House, **North by:** Land of Mr. Subba Reddy & Mr.Venkataswamy Reddy/Hotel & shed, **South by:** Land of Mrs. Nagamma/Salarpuria Sattva Building. **Property Location: Latitude & Longitude: 12.952750, 77.699774**	Rs. 61,50,00,000/-	Rs. 6,15,00,000/-	12.05 PM to 12.25PM	Rs. 1,00,000/-	Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bengaluru –Indiranagar A/c No. 1093500200004101 IFSC - KARB0000109

(The borrower's/mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).

(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (6) of Rule (8)Sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors).

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. https://karnatakabank.com under the head "Regulatory and others".

The E-auction will be conducted through portal www.auctionbazaar.com on **13.05.2025** at above mentioned time with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at **www.auctionbazaar.com** and get the user Id and password free of cost and get training i.e. online training on E-auction (tentatively on **12.05.2025**) from **M/s Auction Bazaar, 7-1-28/1/A/1 Park Avenue 1, Ameerpet, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Secunderbad, Telangana, India, 500016, Contact Mobile No. 8885035382, E-mail : disposal.karnataka@auctionbazaar.com.**

Date : 05.04.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Assistant General Manager & Authorised Officer, Karnataka Bank Ltd.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHIVA Amrutha Rao Madevaiah, S/O: Mahadevaiah Durgoji Rao, R/O: No 219, 1st Floor 5th Main Road, Poornaprajna Layout, Vadarapalya, Bengaluru – 560061. Have Changed My Name To Shiva Amruth Rao Mahadevaiah. Affidavit dated on 07/04/25

I, AKHIL Balachandra R/at 101/8 , 11th Cross , 8th Main, Malleswaram , Bangalore - 560003 have changed my daughter's name from Tvisha Akhil to Tvishaa Akhil vide affidavit dt 04.04.2025 before Notary Chandrakala, Bengaluru

WE, JERRY Kamal and Miriam Prathima, R/a Bethlehem Star No.180, 1st Main Road, A Block AECS Layout, Kundalahalli, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037 have changed our minor daughter's name from Jerylnn Jerry to Jerlynn Jerry vide affidavit dt: 28.03.2025 sworn before Notary Udaykumar.K, B'luru

I, DASS Raju Andrews, S/o Dass R/a No-6, 7th Cross, Bank Avenue Colony, Horamavu, Kalyanagar, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Dass Andrew vide affidavit dt: 05.04.025 sworn before Notary Udaykumar.K, B'luru

I, Chand Pasha S/o Mohammed Sayed R/o #351,Lohith Nagara, Nelamangala Taluk, Nelamangala Bangalore Rural 562123 have changed my name to Chand Pasha for all purposes.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, UMESH.B.M, S/o Marilingapp.S, and Smt. Gangamma, R/at No.234, 2nd Floor, 4th Main, Gokula 1st Stage, 1st Phase, Mathikere, Bangalore - 560054, have changed my name from Umesha B M alias B.M. Umesh to Umesh.B.M. vide affidavit dated 04/04/2025 sworn before Notary Chandrakala, Bengaluru

TENDERS

इंडिया एक्ज़िम बैंक India Exim Bank

INVITATION FOR REGISTRATION OF CONSULTANTS

Export-Import Bank of India invites applications for registration of consultants as Technical and Procurement Experts for various activities like preparation / vetting of Detailed Project Reports, Impact Assessment Reports, acting as Lender's Independent Engineers etc., for projects being financed by India Exim Bank.

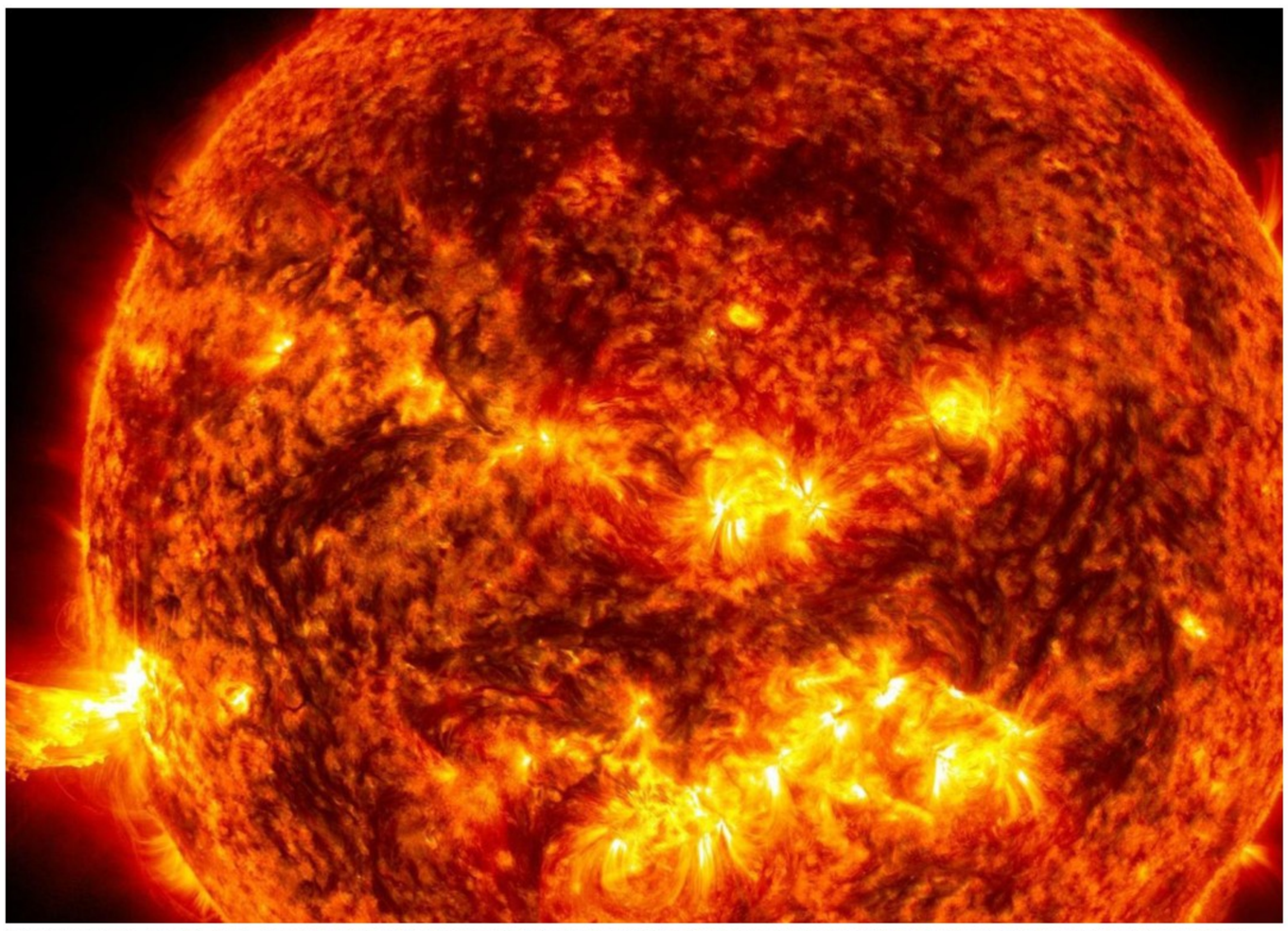
Details are available on: https://www.eximbankindia.in/registration-of-experts.aspx

All subsequent Addenda / Corrigenda shall be notified on Bank's website.

It's clear now: iron inside the sun is more opaque than expected

Researchers found that the temperature of the sun is determined to a great degree by the opacity of minerals within it and the computer models that were used to estimate and calculate various facts about the star were not quite accurate, and modelling parameters probably needed a relook

Vasudevan Mukunth



This image from June 20, 2013, shows the bright light of a solar flare on the left side of the sun and an eruption of solar material shooting through the sun's atmosphere, called a prominence eruption. Shortly thereafter, this same region of the sun sent a coronal mass ejection out into space. NASA/GODDARD/SDO

The world is full of mysteries but not all of them are grand. Sure, we don't know what the mind really is or what the inside of a black hole looks like. But there are also many mysteries hiding in the little details.

For example, we don't know why iron inside the sun is so opaque.

Solid iron objects are everywhere around us. They're used to make doorknobs, cooking utensils, furniture, water tanks – all sorts of things. And they're all opaque. When light hits an iron object, it can't pass through. Instead, some of it is absorbed and some of it is scattered. How much light an object absorbs is called its opacity: the more it absorbs, the more opaque it is.

Iron's opacity isn't an important detail when making a doorknob. But when we're talking about the sun, the implications are practically cosmic.

The universe's engines

The sun is the star closest to the earth and thus the one humans have studied the most. A lot of what we know, or think we know, about different kinds of stars comes from studying the sun.

This is true on two levels. First: scientists have developed various theories to explain the sun's properties. Over many decades, they pointed telescopes, detectors, and antennae at emissions from the star to capture electromagnetic radiation, charged particles, heat, etc. and compare the data with each theory. Then they eliminated theories that disagreed with the data and refined those that did.

On the second level, the sun is just one kind of star; the universe has many kinds. To understand their properties, scientists used the theories to build models that "simulate" them. These properties include the generation of heat and energy and their movement through the star, the star's magnetic field, its rotation and quakes on its surface, the evolution of the stellar atmosphere, the formation of sunspots and flares, and the effects of these changes on near-star space.

Stars are the universe's engines: we can't understand the universe if we don't understand how stars work. When stars form, they allow planets to form around them, which they subsequently supply with light, heat, and a protective magnetic shield. (Sometimes they supply too much or too little: scientists have found more than a few exoplanets fried by their host stars or turned into giant ice balls.)

Their mass deflects asteroids and comets, and their flares energise nearby gas clouds and increase the formation of other stars. When a star dies, depending on its manner of death, it releases copious amounts of metals and other elements into the universe that aren't made in any other natural process.

This variety of effects means stars' properties affect the formation of star clusters, galaxies, the universe's structure, and its evolution. Scientific models can thus simulate all these things if they get the stars' properties right, and herein lies the rub.

Up to 400% higher

Several independent studies until the mid-2010s reported that there appeared to be 30-50% less carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen in the sun than what models predicted.

These models aren't easy to tweak with new data. They have been able to successfully predict some things, like the sun's current brightness and how many neutrinos nuclear fusion in the sun's core produces every second. The models have also become so complicated they can run only on the most powerful supercomputers. When faced with the discrepancy, modellers suspected they were due to problems in the way the elements' abundances were measured. If the measurements are improved, the discrepancy might go away, they said.

But a notable study published in 2015 disagreed: its authors wrote that the discrepancy "could be resolved if the true mean opacity for the solar interior matter were roughly 15% higher than predicted."

How much energy an element absorbs inside the star affects the star's temperature profile. The authors were thus suggesting the models' data about the opacity of elements inside the sun were off. To buttress their argument, they subjected a plasma containing iron to conditions expected at the star's radiation/convection zone boundary, a layer about 30% of the way from the surface to its centre. They reported that depending on the frequency of radiation striking it, iron's opacity was found to be 30-400% higher than predicted.

Dark of the shadow

Subsequent studies upheld the crux of these findings: that models were underestimating iron's opacity. In a study published on January 27 this year, scientists reported "opacity profiles" of various elements derived from helioseismic inferences, i.e. based on the propagation of sound within the sun. They wrote: "We find that our seismic opacity is about 10% higher than theoretical values used in current solar models by around 2 million degrees, but lower by 35% than some recent available theoretical values." But researchers who banked on models – which were based on their theories – still had to be sure if uncertainties in the measurements of the time-varying properties of the plasma in these studies could explain the discrepancy.

> We find that our seismic opacity is about 10% higher than theoretical values used in current solar models by around 2 million degrees, but lower by 35% than some recent available theoretical values

In a study published on March 3 in *Physical Review Letters*, researchers from the US and France reported they had put this question to the test and concluded the problem was indeed in the theory, not in the observed data.

At Sandia National Laboratories in the US, the team exposed a thin sample of iron to X-rays and pointed spectrometers at the X-ray source. The spectrometers observed the X-ray shadow cast by the iron sample. The team also linked up the spectrometers to ultrafast X-ray cameras that recorded changes in temperature and particle density more than one billion times per second.

The team wrote in its paper, "Our new measurements use a novel technology to measure opacity sample evolution ... These measurements quantify the impact of temporal gradients on published film-integrated data and contradict the hypothesis that the temporal evolution might explain the published model-data discrepancy."

'Many more requirements'

The study's challenges weren't trivial. Measuring opacity in sun-like conditions requires technologies that didn't exist until recently. To mimic the conditions in the sun, the electrons in a plasma need to be energised to at least 180 eV while their density exceeds 30,000 billion billion particles per millilitre. The energy came from the X-ray source at Sandia.

The thin iron sample also contained a small amount of magnesium as a tracer. The magnesium's interaction with the X-rays, as observed at the spectrometer, allowed the team to calculate the electrons' energy and density.

The team inferred iron's opacity to the X-rays based on how strongly it absorbed the radiation. The more strongly it did, the darker the shadow it would cast in the spectrometer readings. This "darkness" is called the line optical depth.

The paper added, "The ultimate approach to resolving the model-data discrepancy entails measuring iron opacity as a function of time. However, that must satisfy many more requirements, including absolute transmission measurements, rather than line optical depth reported here, and formal uncertainty determination, while measuring plasma conditions."

"Such an absolute opacity approach is presently under investigation," the team added.

(mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in)

Shrubs like *Viburnum grandiflorum* are a critical food source for pollinators. ANZAR KHUROO

Kashmir's less-known spring blooms

Hirra Azmat

Kashmir's agroclimatic conditions are distinct from the rest of the country. The Valley's long, harsh winters leave vegetation in dormancy. When spring arrives, it breathes new life into the landscape.

The mountainous region is home to a variety of endemic plants, including indigenous bulbs, herbs, shrubs, and trees. These floral species play a crucial role in maintaining the valley's biodiversity.

Some of the most prominent spring flowers are *Colchicum luteum* (veer kaum): A delicate yet vibrant bloom, often seen carpeting hillocks and grooves; *Sternbergia vernalis* (goul tour), a golden-yellow flower that marks the arrival of spring; *Salix* (braed mushuk), a plant with significant cultural and ecological value; *Viburnum grandiflorum* (kulmansh), a shrub with large pink flowers; and daffodils, whose bright yellow and white hues symbolise renewal and have deep roots in Kashmiri folklore. Beyond their aesthetic appeal, these plants also provide essential ecosystem services. They serve as vital food sources for pollinators, ensuring the pollination of horticultural fruit trees that also bloom during spring.

"The Valley's vast altitudinal variations – from 1,600 metres in the basin to over 4,500 metres at mountain peaks – create diverse habitats suitable for these plants," Anzar Khuroo, professor at the Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, said. "The gradual blooming from the valley plains in early spring to the alpine meadows in late summer showcases their remarkable diversity and adaptability."

Preserving these blooms is more than just about preserving biodiversity; they also represent the cultural and ecological essence of the Valley

For centuries, ethnic communities have used these endemic blooms for medicinal and cultural purposes. Many traditional uses have been preserved through oral traditions, passed down from generation to generation. These flowers don't just symbolise Kashmiri heritage; they also hold potential therapeutic benefits.

But despite their significance, these species face numerous threats. Unsustainable development activities, deforestation, and increasing human encroachment pose significant risks. Climate change has also started to alter their blooming patterns. Research has found that relatively milder winters and early warming in February have led to premature flowering in the Valley, disrupting the natural seasonal cycle.

For example, a recent study conducted by the Khuroo's group at the University of Kashmir reported a shift in the spring flowering phenology (the study of flowering patterns and cycles influenced by seasonal changes) of the model plant species *Sternbergia vernalis*, in response to the changing climate in the Kashmir region of the Himalayas.

"As Kashmir's ecology and environment face increasing pressures, it is imperative to strike a balance between development and conservation," Khuroo said. "Protecting these endemic blooms is not just about preserving biodiversity: it is about safeguarding the cultural and ecological essence of the Valley for generations to come."

(Hirra Azmat is a Kashmir-based journalist who writes extensively on science, health, and environment. azmathirra@gmail.com)

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

When the earth and the moon cast shadows on each other

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Right before and right after the point of totality during a solar eclipse, the moon's rugged surface allows beads of sunlight to shine through in some places, called _____'s _____. When there is one bead, the "diamond ring" effect is visible. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2

The earth's X as it moves around the sun creates the seasons. In the same way, the moon's X in its orbit around the earth creates a period once every six months or so when (relatively) many eclipses occur. What is X?

QUESTION 3

An important reason why eclipses occur is that the sun and the moon are roughly the same size as seen from the earth's surface. An annular eclipse happens when the moon comes before the sun but only leaves a ring of light visible. What's their size in degrees?

QUESTION 4

Both the moon around the earth and the earth around the sun follow elliptical orbits. If both these orbits were circular instead, there would be a solar eclipse every ___ ____ day. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

People who purposefully track down eclipses and observe them are called eclipse chasers. They are also called _____, which can be translated as 'shadow lover' as well as refers to a part of eclipses. Fill in the blank.

Answers to April 3 quiz:

1. Shape ocean's surface takes under influence of gravity and rotation – **Ans: Geoid**
2. Location of India-sized sea-level anomaly – **Ans: Indian Ocean**
3. Value of sea level including average height of surface waves – **Ans: Still-water level**
4. Space mission launched in 1992 to measure sea level – **Ans: TOPEX/Poseidon**
5. Phenomenon of landmasses rebounding after losing ice mass – **Ans: Post-glacial rebound**

Visual: **Sea of Galilee**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Joe V.R. | Anmol Agrawal

Answers to April 4 quiz:

1. Leading cause of maternal mortality worldwide – **Ans: Postpartum hemorrhage**
2. Stage of pregnancy when most maternal deaths occur – **Ans: During childbirth and postnatal period**
3. Recommended period for exclusive breastfeeding – **Ans: Six months**
4. Kangaroo mother care can help babies regulate temperature – **Ans: True**
5. Factors of the Apgar score – **Ans: Reflexes, heart rate, muscle tone, breathing, skin colour**

Visual: **Virginia Apgar**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Sanjev Sakthivel | Kittu Choudhary

A partial solar eclipse over Greenland's capital Nuuk in March 2025. REUTERS

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

'Fix GPS tracker in vehicles carrying building waste'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar has directed civic officials to equip all vehicles transporting construction and demolition waste with GPS tracking devices to monitor their movement and ensure proper disposal.

He also instructed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagare Palike (BBMP) and police personnel to keep a close watch on the unloading of such waste and take stringent action against any violations.

Speaking to reporters at Sumanahalli, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "The BBMP Commissioner and I witnessed 10 to 15 truckloads of construction waste dumped by the roadside. This prompted me to order the immediate installation of GPS trackers on all such vehicles."

Expert panel formed to fix city-specific schedule of rates

It includes a team of engineers and experts from BBMP and Public Works Deparment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move aimed at streamlining Bengaluru's infrastructure development framework, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has constituted an expert committee to develop a city-specific schedule of rates (SR).

This comes close on the heels of the recently presented city's civic budget laying a road map for the implementation of a whopping ₹73,200 crore worth of mega road infrastructure projects, including tunnel roads, 110 km long grade separators, and double-decker flyovers with Namma Metro among other works, to be taken up by a special purpose vehicle formed to implement these projects. This is apart from the Peripheral Ring Road to be taken up by the Bangalore Development Authority.

The committee has been given 30 days, with a deadline of May 15, to finalise and submit the proposed schedule of rates. FILE PHOTO

High-level meeting

The decision, stemming from a high-level meeting chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary on March 13, 2025, is set to redefine how infrastructure projects are estimated and executed across the city. The newly constituted eight-member committee, headed by former BBMP Chief Engineer Somashekar, includes a team of engineers and experts from BBMP and the Public Works Department (PWD).

Their mandate is to submit a revised and realistic set of rates tailored to Bengaluru's unique urban challenges – ranging from traffic congestion and limited working hours to high construction waste disposal costs and logistical difficulties in labor mobilisation.

Concerns had been mounting among implementing agencies and contractors about the inadequacy of the current uniform PWD schedule of rates, which they argued fails to reflect the city's density, constraints, and rising costs. These views were echoed in several consultative meetings prior to the order.

The committee has been given 30 days, with a deadline of May 15, to finalise and submit the proposed schedule of rates. Members will receive sitting fees, and logistical support has been arranged to facilitate meetings and report preparation.

Man found murdered near Turahalli forest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 26-year-old man was found murdered near Turahalli forest in Kengeri on Monday morning. Around 9 a.m., the Hoysala police personnel on patrol noticed the body lying by the roadside.

The deceased has been identified as Shameer, a resident of Mysuru Road. The police suspected that the deceased could be between 25 and 30 years, as the body remained unidentified for some time. Preliminary investigation revealed that he had sustained a head injury, leading to his death. The police said the murder likely to have occurred on Sunday. The Kengeri police have registered a case. The body was sent for post-mortem to determine the exact cause of death.

BBMP sets aside ₹730 cr. for welfare of pourakarmikas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has earmarked ₹730 crore for the welfare of pourakarmikas.

"We have announced ₹500 crore in this budget for the salaries of the pourakarmikas, ₹107 crores for the pension and a pension of ₹6,000 for the family of the pourakarmikas in case of death," he said, while addressing a programme of pourakarmikas from city corporations, town municipalities, and other local bodies.

"We have also allocated ₹5 crore for various protection gears, including shoes and gloves. A sum of ₹6 crore has been allocated to reimburse education fees, ₹4 crore for healthcare, ₹5 crore for skill development, ₹10 crore for autorickshaw and taxi drivers. The salaries of pourakarmikas will go up to ₹50,000 once their employment is regularised," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

CM assures Rahul Gandhi of support for street vendors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday assured the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, that the State government is committed to the overall well-being of street vendors and will ensure their holistic development.

The Chief Minister's assurance came after Mr. Gandhi, in a letter to him, expressed concerns regarding the condition of street vendors in Karnataka.

In his response, Mr. Siddaramaiah wrote to Mr. Gandhi stating that Karnataka was among the first States to frame its Street Vendors Rules, a process initiated during his tenure as Chief Minister between 2013 and 2018.

The Chief Minister said the survey of street vendors and the elections to the various Town Vending Committees were conducted for the first time in 2017 and 2019, respectively, during the previous Congress government in Karnataka.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the survey has been completed, and 27,655 vendors have been registered in Bengaluru. Elections to the Town Vending Committees would be completed in April 2025. A total of 189 different types of vending zones have been identified, within which 10,142 vending spots have been earmarked.

The Chief Minister stated that the state has initiated various welfare schemes for street vendors, focusing on areas such as education for their children, health benefits, housing, and skill training to improve their employment prospects.

Additionally, he said, "We are in the process of equipping them with electric vending vehicles to enhance their mobility and create better business opportunities."

In the year 2024-25, 3,778 beneficiaries have been identified to receive different types of vending carts.

Parameshwara's remark on molestation incident draws ire

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Responding to media queries over a recent case of a sexual assault on a woman walking home in Bengaluru, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said he had instructed the city Police Commissioner to strengthen the police beat system and added that "in a big city like this, such incidents do happen...", drawing the ire of many.

"I have instructed the police to strengthen the beat system. This morning also, I instructed the Bengaluru Police Commissioner the same. Our police are also working tirelessly every day to ensure that the people are safe, but in a big city like this, such incidents do happen," he said.

BJP State president B. Y. Vijayendra said the Home Minister's statement reflected the callous way in which he and the administration were acting regarding "rising crimes and women's safety".

He said such an attitude had led to "breakdown of law and order in the State" and demanded that the Chief Minister make a responsible statement on the law and order situation in the State. The case pertains to a video footage from a CCTV camera going viral on social media. In the video, two women were seen walking home late at night through a narrow alleyway in BTM Layout. A man stealthily approaches them from behind and molests one of them, and runs away when they scream for help. The Suddaguntepalya police have registered a *suo motu* FIR and initiated a probe to identify the accused.

Police sources said that they have tracked down the victim, but she was unwilling to pursue the case and was in fact upset with the person who leaked the footage.

2 of family die in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two people of a family, Triveni, 25, and Shivakumar, 35, died in a road accident on Sunday after the vehicle they were travelling in collided with two trucks on the National Highway near Nelamangala.

The accident occurred in the evening near Boodihala Gate when the duo was transporting luggage in a pickup vehicle driven by one of their relatives, Veerabhadra.

According to the police officials, the driver of the lorry in front suddenly applied the brakes, which forced Veerabhadra to do the same.

As a result, the second lorry behind them collided with their vehicle.

This impact caused the front tire to crash into the lorry in front, leading to the death of two people.

Veerabhadra escaped with minor injuries,the police officials said.

Prakashnath Swami gets award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prakashnath Swami, managing director of BGS and SJB Group of Institutions and Hospitals, was given the 'DEfactoEd Follow Up Innovative Leader Award' recently, by the Government of the United Kingdom and DEfactoEd. The award recognises individuals who have made notable contributions to education through innovation and creativity.

David Knight, chairman of Innovation, giving the award to Prakashnath Swami in the city. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The ceremony took place at the BGS Health and Education City Trust office at Kengeri in Bengaluru.

Re-asphalting of 80.8 km of key stretches begins

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike on Monday began work on re-asphalting 80.8 km of critical stretches where previous asphalting works were deemed inadequate or had deteriorated, at an estimated cost of ₹187.50 crore.

This package is part of ₹694 crore set aside by the civic body to asphalt 389.68 km arterial and subarterial roads. Key works in this project include improved camber slope, effective water drainage, and elimination of potholes to ensure smoother and safer roads.

These stretches are in Malleshwaram, Mahalakshmi Layout, R.R. Nagar, Yeshwanthpur, Basavanagudi, Chickpet, Shivajinagar, and Gandhinagar Assembly constituencies. Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D. K. Shivakumar laid foundation stones for the redevelopment of these roads at eight locations on Monday.

Vehicles using a bad stretch of Dr. Vishnuvardhan Road connecting Uttarahalli and Kengeri at Srinivasapura Cross in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

During the event, Mr. Shivakumar said, "We have initiated black-topping (asphalting) work at many locations in a single day. While 196 km of road works were previously undertaken, today we began work on another 450 km stretch of roads. An additional 350 km of roads are under the Defect Liability Period (DLP), meaning contractors are still responsible for maintenance, and hence work has not started on those yet."

Mr. Shivakumar said as a part of the Brand Bengaluru - Sugama Sanchara initiative, 1,600 km of arterial and subarterial roads across the city will be either asphalted or white-topped.

"Three-fourths of Bengaluru's roads will undergo black and white-topping. These upgraded roads are expected to last for 30 years. I have personally inspected the ongoing works, and a dedicated team is overseeing quality checks to ensure transparency," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

Footpaths to be reconstructed

- Roads will be re-asphalted scientifically, maintaining proper camber slope
- A micro-surfacing method will be used where complete re-asphalting isn't necessary
- Deteriorated road shoulders will be repaired
- Footpaths will be reconstructed in congested commercial areas
- Better rainwater drainage systems will be installed to prevent future road damage
- Existing utility ducts will be preserved, and any additional duct work will be integrated as per necessity

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, APR. 08		
RISE	06:11	SET 18:32
RISE	15:03	SET 03:11
WEDNESDAY, APR. 09		
RISE	06:11	SET 18:32
RISE	15:51	SET 03:49
THURSDAY, APR. 10		
RISE	06:10	SET 18:32
RISE	16:36	SET 04:24

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	25
Mysuru	35	21
Bengaluru	34	23

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The government hike in excise duty on petrol and diesel

2 in ₹. There will be no change in retail prices as the increase will be adjusted against the price cut that was warranted because of falling international oil prices. The excise duty on petrol was hiked to ₹13 per litre and on diesel to ₹10 a litre, an official order showed. PTI

Donations received by the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2023-24

2,234 in ₹ crore. The BJP received the highest amount in large donations among national parties in FY2023-24, according to a report by poll rights body the Association for Democratic Reforms. BJP's declared donations alone accounted for 88% of the total. PTI

The extent to which Israel now controls the Gaza Strip

50 In per cent. Israel has dramatically expanded its footprint in the Gaza Strip since relaunching its war last month. The largest contiguous area the army controls is around the Gaza border, where the military has razed Palestinian homes, farmland and infrastructure. PTI

Tamil Nadu Deputy CM's assistance to Chennai Press Club

2.5 in ₹ crore. Tamil Nadu's Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has announced assistance on behalf of the State government to the Chennai Press Club to improve its infrastructure. He announced this when he was presiding over an event on Sunday. PTI

The projected decline in India's exports to the U.S. in 2025

5.76 in $ billion. India's merchandise exports to the U.S. from sectors such as gold, electrical, and electronics are expected to decline by $5.76 billion this year due to increased American duties, according to think tank GTRI. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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A case for a fair seat allocation

Article 1 of the Constitution proclaims that India shall be a Union of States. The term Union implies that the arrangement or rearrangement of the component units should be on the basis of equity. There are serious apprehensions in the south on the question of readjustment of seats in the Lok Sabha

FULL CONTEXT

P.D.T. Achary

The issue of readjustment of Lok Sabha seats in the context of the new Census is being hotly debated in the country. In fact, it is being wrongly referred to as delimitation in all public debates.

Delimitation is the act of fixing or refixing the boundaries of constituencies. This is done by the Delimitation Commission only after the Census is taken. Under Article 82 of the Constitution, on the completion of each Census, the seats in the Lok Sabha are required to be readjusted so as to reflect the increased population in the number of seats. The present strength of the Lok Sabha was fixed on the basis of the decennial Census figures of 1971. The total population of India in 1971 was around 54.79 crore which is estimated to have gone up to 141 crore as of March 2025. Thus, during the past 50 years there has been a phenomenal increase in India's population. This has not reflected in the strength of the Lok Sabha, as the number of seats have been frozen at the population level of 1971 till 2026, through an amendment of the Constitution.

Various formulae

The most important point to remember is that much of the increase in the population of the country was due to the failure of some of the major States in the north, such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, in implementing the national policy on population control. The result is an abnormal increase in the population of these States. For example, the population of Uttar Pradesh in 1971, was a little over 8.38 crore which is estimated to have gone up to 24.1 crore in 2025. Similarly, the population of Bihar was 4.21 crore in 1971, which has probably reached 13.1 crore in 2025. The idea behind not raising the strength of the Lok Sabha till 2026 was to give time to the States, which were registering huge increases in population, to stabilise it so that the readjustment of seats would not create a serious imbalance between States in southern and northern India.

The southern States could implement the population program successfully and arrest the growth in population. In 1971, the ratio between the number of Lok Sabha seats allotted to a State and its population was almost the same for all the States. Thus, in all major States the population base was 10 lakh for a Lok Sabha constituency. However, the picture has now changed drastically. If the formula contained in Article 81 is followed now, it will create a huge divergence in the number of seats between the northern States and southern States. For example, for a population of 24 crore, Uttar Pradesh will be entitled to 240 seats which will be a threefold increase from the present 80 seats. Whereas a State like Kerala, will only get 36 seats in place of the 20 seats at present as its population is estimated to have increased by only 68% over the past 50 years. If on the other hand, the population to seat ratio is changed to 15 lakh per constituency, Uttar Pradesh will get 160 seats in place of 80, whereas Kerala may get only a few seats more than the present 20 seats. Incidentally, Kerala is being cited as an example because it has registered the lowest growth in population among all major States.

There is another calculation which produces interesting results. The population of the country in 1952, was 372 million (37.2 crore) and the total number of Lok Sabha seats was 489. This works out to an average of 7.6 lakh people in a parliamentary constituency. In 1971, the population was 54.8 crore and the total number of Lok Sabha seats was raised to 543 which works out to one million (10 lakh) people in a constituency. The readjustment of seats was done as per the mandate of Article 82 of the Constitution which will have to be repeated after 2026. Assuming that the strength of the Lok Sabha is going to be raised from the present 543 to 800 (the capacity of the Lok Sabha chamber in the new Parliament is reported to be above 800), the average population of a parliamentary constituency will be nearly 18 lakh. If this figure is taken as the population base of a constituency for readjustment, then Kerala may retain the same number of seats, Tamil Nadu will gain a mere four seats where as Uttar Pradesh will gain as much as 54 seats.

Putting up a fight: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin addresses the Joint Action Committee meeting for Fair Delimitation, in Chennai on March 22. ANI

Rewarding incompetence

There are serious apprehensions in the south on the question of readjustment of seats in the Lok Sabha. Although the Union Government has remained silent on it so far, unofficial discussions on certain formula are reportedly being held in some quarters. The State of Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, has powerfully articulated the fears of the States in the southern region about losing political importance in the event of a readjustment of seats in the Lok Sabha. The recent conclave of southern Chief Ministers and other political leaders, including the Chief Minister of Punjab, held in Chennai is a pointer to the possibility of this issue becoming a major rallying point for southern States. Therefore, there is an urgent need to devise a rational formula for the readjustment of seats in Lok Sabha.

Articles 81 and 82 clearly show that readjustment of seats is done solely on the basis of population. So, a solution to this vexed problem can be found on the basis of what population base can be accepted for readjusting seats. The problem has arisen because of the huge increase of population in a large number of States due to the non-implementation of family planning programs. Equity demands that States which failed to implement population control programs not be rewarded with an increase of seats which give them great political advantage.

Ideal solution

In these circumstances, a fair formula for readjustment of seats would be to take the State which has registered the lowest increase in population as the template. Figures show that Kerala is the State in the south which has registered the lowest growth in population since 1971. The population of Kerala was 2.14 crore in 1971, which is estimated to have gone up to 3.6 crore in 2025 which is an increase of 68%. This can be considered a reasonable growth in population for the last 50 years. So a 68% step-up in the number of seats in all States can be a reasonable basis for readjustment. This will, on the one hand, maintain the present equation among the States in terms of seats and on the other obviate the need to abnormally raise the number of seats in the States which are remiss in controlling the population. So, under this formula, Uttar Pradesh will get 134 seats, Kerala 34 and Tamil Nadu around 66 seats. This way the present equation among States in terms of seats will remain unchanged. A 68% step-up in seats will raise the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha to 912.

Of course, this formula will make Article 81(2)(a), which says that the ratio between the number of seats and the population of a State shall be the same for all the States, irrelevant. In fact, it had become irrelevant long back – a formula that was laid down in 1950 will cause serious injustice in 2026. The allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha is not a political issue – it needs to be done on the basis of the constitutional principle of equity. It is bound with the bargaining power of the federating units or groups of such units situated in various geographical regions. A sensitive approach is necessary to deal with this issue. Article 1 of the Constitution proclaims that India shall be a Union of States. The term Union implies that the arrangement of the component units should be on the basis of equity in terms of its share in Parliament. We should try to live up to the implications of this constitutional scheme.

P.D.T. Achary is Former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha.

THE GIST

- Delimitation is the act of fixing or refixing the boundaries of constituencies. This is done by the Delimitation Commission only after the Census is taken.
- The State of Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, has powerfully articulated the fears of the States in the southern region about losing political importance in the event of a readjustment of seats in the Lok Sabha.
- In these circumstances, a fair formula for readjustment of seats would be to take the State which has registered the lowest increase in population as the template. Figures show that Kerala is the State in the south which has registered the lowest growth in population since 1971.

BJP begins Janakrosha Yatre against State govt. from Mysuru

Party State unit president Vijayendra dismisses speculations over any possible cracks in BJP-JD(S) alliance

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Opposition BJP launched the Janakrosha Yatre in protest against the Congress government in the State against the rise in prices of essential commodities from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's hometown of Mysuru.

The State-wide yatre, which was flagged off with a march from the Central Post Office Circle in Mysuru on Monday, is expected to cover various parts of the State in four phases till May 3. The BJP is seeking to target the Congress government over not only price rise, but also alleged appeasement of Muslims and diversion of funds meant for development of Dalits.

A host of BJP leaders including Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi, party State President B.Y. Vijayendra and Leaders of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and Council R. Ashok and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy respectively were present at the flagging off. The protesters marched through Ashoka Road before reaching Gandhi Square near the Town Hall, where the leaders addressed a gathering of supporters.

BJP leaders, including State president B.Y. Vijayendra and Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi, at the launch of Janakrosha Yatre in Mysuru on Monday. M.A. SRIRAM

The BJP leaders in attendance at the launch of the yatre included former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda, MP Govind Karjol, former Deputy Chief Minister Ashwath Narayan, Mysuru MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, and C.T. Ravi, among others.

'Agitation inevitable'
Addressing the gathering, Mr. Vijayendra said the agitation had become inevitable for the BJP as a responsible Opposition party in view of the difficulties the people of the State were facing on account of the rise in prices of essential commodities. He pointed out that the BJP's agitation was aimed at securing people's support in the elections as no polls were scheduled in the near future.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is no longer a leader of the Ahinda. He is a leader only for the Muslim community and the State will not progress under him," Mr. Vijayendra stated.

Mr. Joshi too lashed out at the Congress government for hiking prices of essential commodities and called for its removal.

Earlier, the BJP leaders arrived at Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hills and offered prayers. Later, they drove down and participated in the launch of the Janakrosha Yatre.

'No confusion'
Meanwhile, fielding reporters queries, Mr. Vijayendra sought to dismiss speculations over possible cracks in the party's alliance with the Janata Dal (Secular) as the latter had kept itself away from the yatre. "Just because we are carrying out agitations separately does not mean there are differences in the party. There is no confusion among the two parties," he said.

However, he said a co-ordination committee meeting of the alliance partners should be conducted for other reasons and such a meeting would be held.

Campaign aimed at saving Vijayendra's chair in State BJP unit, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday remarked that the Opposition BJP in Karnataka has launched the Janakrosha Yatre to save State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra's chair and not for public interest.

The Chief Minister lambasted the BJP's yatre and said Mr. Vijayendra had not only lost the support of his party workers but also that of the people of the State. The former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's son has embarked upon the yatre to safeguard his president's post, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

On fuel price hike
In a statement, the CM said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has exposed the hypocrisy of the so-called 'Janakrosha Yatre' launched by BJP leaders in Karnataka, by himself increasing the prices of petrol, diesel, and cooking gas. He has, in effect, confirmed the truth we've been saying all along – that these price hikes are the direct result of the Union government's anti-people economic policies".

Siddaramaiah

He went on to add, "I would like to know what the BJP leaders in Karnataka have to say about the fresh hike in excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹2, and the ₹50 increase in the price of a cooking gas cylinder. Even though crude oil prices are falling in the international market, the Union government continues to raise fuel prices. BJP leaders owe the people of Karnataka an explanation."

'Lack of courage'
The BJP leaders have no courage to raise their voice against the Union government against the alleged injustice done to the State in devolution of tax shares and denial of clearances to many irrigation projects. Ironically, the same leaders launched a protest against the State government, which has implemented five guarantees for the benefit of the poor, the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah termed the BJP as an 'inefficient, and anti-people' party which had not been seen in the State till now. "Mr. Vijayendra has no moral right to level charges against the government when the leaders of the BJP have been levelling allegations of 'payment seat' against himself," the Chief Minister held.

Corruption charges
"Former Union Minister Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal has been expelled from the BJP for six years for exposing the misdeeds in the party. The BJP Central leaders were aware of the corruption charges levelled by party men against Mr. Vijayendra and he would be removed the party president post. To save the post of the BJP State president, Vijayendra launched the yatre against my government," the Chief Minister reiterated.

'Centre's excise duty hike on fuel will not be passed on to consumers'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi said the Centre's decision to increase excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹2 will not be passed on to the consumers.

Oil companies
Addressing a gathering at the launch of the Janakrosh Yatre of the BJP against the ruling Congress in Karnataka over the hike in prices of essential commodities, Mr. Joshi said the burden of the increase in excise duty will be shouldered by the State-owned oil companies.

He said that the Centre has reduced excise rates thrice in the last decade and lashed out at the Congress leaders for targeting the BJP-led government at the Centre for hiking the fuel prices.

Congress criticised
Mr. Joshi criticised the Congress government for increasing the prices of essential commodities.

HC upholds pardon granted to accused for turning approver in 2016 murder case against MLA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that there is no need for the trial court to record the acceptance of pardon by the accused in writing when the accused himself applies for pardon by turning an approver in a criminal case, the High Court of Karnataka has upheld the pardon granted to a prime accused in the 2016 murder case against Congress MLA Vinay R. Kulkarni.

Also, the court directed the Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against former present MPs and MLAs to make all efforts to conclude the trial within four weeks while pointing out that the earlier deadline, given on December 4, 2024, to conclude the trial within two months had already lapsed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing the petitions filed by Mr. Kulkarni, who is arraigned as accused number 15, and other accused in the case. The petitioner-accused questioned the December 24 order of the Special Court in granting pardon to Basavaraj S. Muttagi, accused number 1 in the case, by allowing his application to turn approver in the case.

The petitioners had contended that special court's order of granting pardon to Muttagi was wrong as it did not record his acceptance of pardon in writing as per the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The court, on analysing the provisions of the Cr.P.C pointed out that when an accused himself voluntarily seeks pardon and the prosecution supports such request of the accused, 'it is deemed acceptance of pardon' and hence there is no need to record the acceptance of pardon by the accused in writing.

However, the court made it clear that when the prosecution makes an application to grant pardon to an accused by treating him as an approver, then the trial court is required to record in writing the acceptance of pardon and its terms by the accused.

The special court in October 2024 had directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which had probed the case and filed a chargesheet, to provide security to Muttagi and his family following threats to their life on noticing that Ashwath, accused number 9, had telephonically called his friends and other persons and had threatened that he would ensure that Muttagi would not appear before the court. The order for providing security by Central agencies was granted on an application filed by Muttagi explaining the threat to his life.

Second airport: KSIIDC officials brief AAI team

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The multidisciplinary team from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) – on a visit to the State to inspect the three locations that have been identified for Bengaluru's second international greenfield airport – was briefed by Karnataka State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIIDC) officials on Monday.

KSIIDC Managing Director Khushboo Goel interacting with a team of senior officials from the Airports Authority of India in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Khushboo Goel, Managing Director, KSIIDC briefed a team of senior AAI officials.

Ms. Goel provided information about three proposed sites, of which two are on Kanakapura Road and one on the Nelamangala-Kunigal Road.

The team will visit and inspect the locations on Tuesday.

Following the visit to the three sites, the AAI team is scheduled to meet the Minister for Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil on Wednesday.

The Central team will begin the inspection at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, from the Kanakapura Road sites, following which they will proceed to the Nelamangala site.

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005. Phone No.044-28415003, 28511972
Notice Inviting e-Tender with Forward Bidding

1	Description	Sale of dimensional colour granite blocks from certain quarries of TAMIN, Tamil Nadu
2	Tender No. & Date Tender ID	86/EX-1/2025-4 & 86/EX-1/2025-5, Dated: 07.04.2025 1) 2025_TNMIN_540460_1 2) 2025_TNMIN_540571_1
3	Bid submission End date	08.05.2025 upto 1600 hrs.
4	Technical bid opening date	09.05.2025 at 1600 hrs.
5	Tender form fee & EMD	Rs.2,000/- (Rupees two thousand only) or equivalent USD.25 (Non-refundable) Rs.5,90,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh ninety thousand only) or equivalent USD.7200 (per quarry)

Note: Further details please visit Tamilnadu e-tendering portal **http://tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/1405/TENDER/2025
GENERAL MANAGER (Finance)

KARNATAKA RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY
(A Government of Karnataka Institutions)
No.8, MSB - 01, 6th & 7th Floor, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560 052. Tel: 080-22283366, Fax: 080-22262288
KREIS/INFR/OTH/79/2024-ADMN Date:07-04-2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E- Procurement Only)
A Short Term Call-2 Tenders have been invited on Date: **07-04-2025** for Supply of Food Materials to Residential Schools/Colleges under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society in these 09 Districts with Indent Prefix KREIS/2024-25/IND Belagavi-IND0010/CALL-2, Hassan-IND0020/CALL-2, Kolar-IND0024/CALL-2, Koppal-IND0025/CALL-2, Raichur-IND0028/CALL-2, Shivamogga-IND0030/CALL-2, Uttarkannada-IND0033/CALL-2, Vijayapura-IND0035/CALL-2 and Yadagiri-IND0036/CALL-2 through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the last date for receipt of tenders is Dated: **22-04-2025 within 5:30 P.M.** The details may be viewed in the above website.
Sd/-
Executive Director
DIPR/CP/128/Zen/2025-26 **KREIS, Bengaluru.**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Bengaluru South Division, Amruthnagara,
Konankunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bengaluru - 560062.
No: BBMP/EE/BSD/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 07-04-2025
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Single Cover Tender) (Through KPP Portal only)
The Executive Engineer (Bengaluru South Division), BBMP, Bengaluru - 560062 invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with KPWD / CPWD / BWSSB / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of Works detailed below.
(Standard Tender Document - KW-1 & KW-2)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Maintenance of GYM Equipments at Park in Ward No. 203, Subramanyapura. **(3rd Call) - (Others) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
2	Renovation of Office Building of Office of the Executive Engineer, Bengaluru South Division. **(2nd Call) - (SC) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000.00**
3	Construction of Concrete Road to Approach Connecting to Poornapragna Layout, Appaiaswamy Layout, Vinayaka Layout & Nisarga Layout in Ward No. 203, Subramanyapura. **(Others) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
4	Flood Relief Work and Disaster Management Work in Ward No. 205, Yelechenahalli. **(Others) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **17-04-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **19-04-2025 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Bengaluru South Division, BBMP.

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
Superintending Engineer (Ele), Corporate Office, P.B. Road, Navanagar, Hubballi - 580025. Phone: 0836-2223526
e-Mail: seepmc.hescom@gmail.com / eepmc1.hescom@gmail.com Website: www.hescom.co.in
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) : U31401KA2002SGC030437
No:HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P1/AEE-1/2025-26/CYS-207 Dated: 07-04-2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Karnataka Public Procurement Portal - KPPP Only)
Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi invites the below said Tenders on Total Turnkey and Lumpsum basis in HESCOM Jurisdiction.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Bid Indent No.
1	Shifting of existing 33 KV Shiggaon line emanating from 110/33/11 KV Substation, Shiggaon Passing Over Residential Areas in Shiggaon Town Limits in 33KV S&L Division HESCOM Haveri.	HESCOM/ 2025-26/EL/ WORK_ INDENT692
2	Construction of New 33KV line from 110/33/11 KV Substation, Tumminakatti to 33/11KV Substation Hallur for a distance of 15 Kms in 33KV S&L Division, HESCOM, Haveri.	HESCOM/ 2025-26/EL/ WORK_ INDENT693

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the Website:
www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 5.00 PM of 08-04-2025.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Project Monitoring Cell,
DIPR/Dharwad/22/Adverto/2025-26 **HESCOM, Hubballi.**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

S.VARADARAJAN (76), Retired Officer - General Administration, The Hindu, Bengaluru passed away on 18-March-2025. Address: No. 13, First Main Road, Samruthi Enclave, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru - 560 111. Contact: 080 - 26662515.

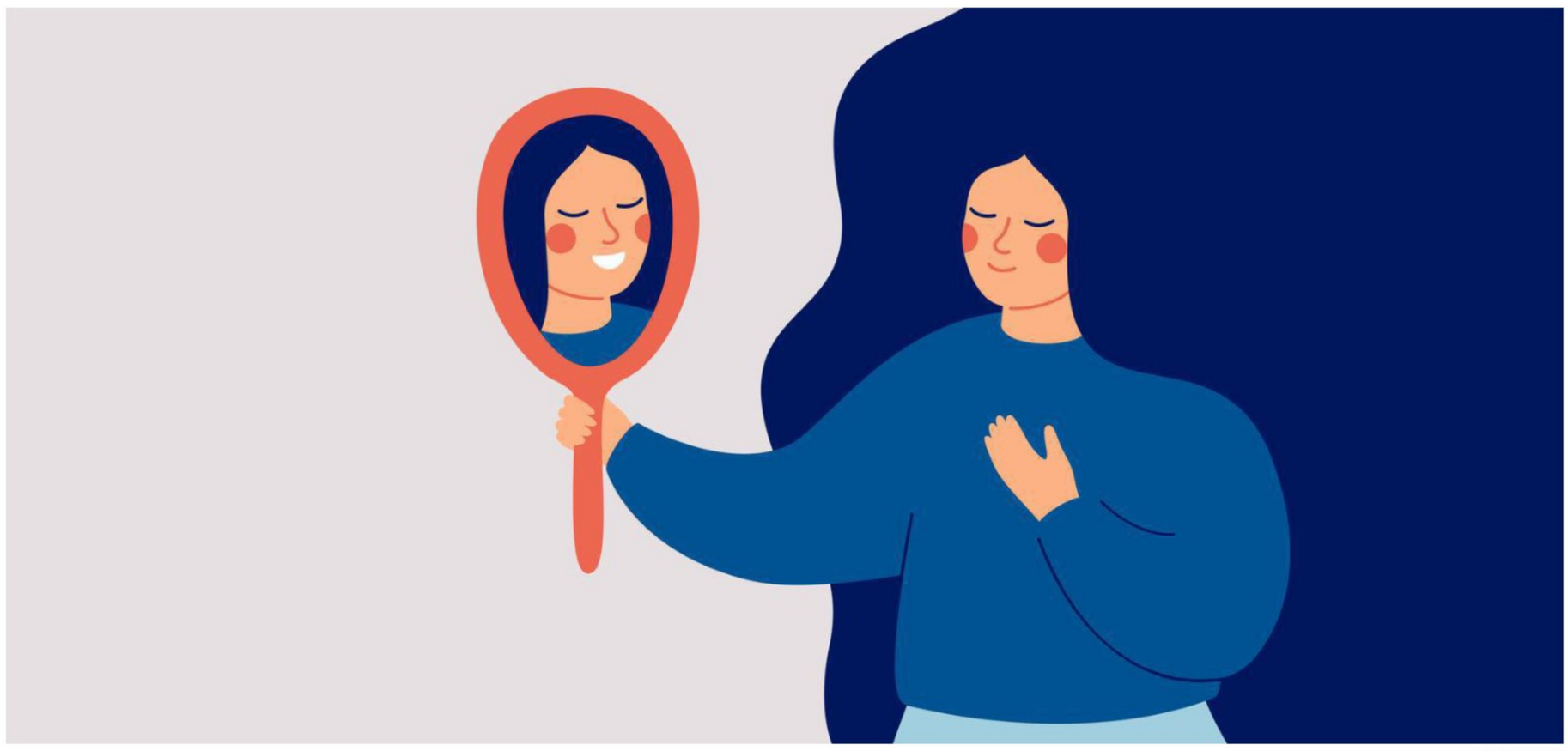
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

Shri.D. Vasudeva Rao
Managing Director (Retd.)
Ennore Foundries Limited
11-09-1933 - 08-04-2021
We miss you dearly
You are forever in our hearts
Fondly remembered by
Anand, Narendar, Arvind and Family.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
District Urban Development Cell, Kalaburagi District, Kalaburagi,
E-mail: ka.kalaburagi.dudc@gmail.com Ph No : 08472 - 278604 www.kalaburagidudc.mrc.gov.in
No.DUDC/Acc.Sec/ 02 /2024-25 Date: 04.04.2025
-: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION :-
The Deputy Commissioner Kalaburagi District Kalabuargi invites tender in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 rules 2000 through E-Procurement 2.0 Portal in Two cover system using Standard Tender document from the service Providing Hotel/Restaurant Services for Indira Canteens in Urban Local Bodies CMC Shahabad, TMC Aland, TMC Afzalpur, TMC Jewargi, TMC Wadi, TMC Sedam and TP Yadrami of Kalaburagi District, Karnataka State works as detailed below:-
1) Description of Work : Providing Hotel/Restaurant Services for Indira Canteens in Urban Local Bodies CMC Shahabad, TMC Aland, TMC Afzalpur, TMC Jewargi, TMC Wadi, TMC Sedam and TP Yadrami of Kalaburagi District, Karnataka State. **(TENDER No: DMA/2025-26/IND4641)**, 2) Amount put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs) : **497.86,** 3) EMD Amount (Rs. In lakhs) : **7.46**
Caterer/Suppliers can download and submit the tenders from dated: 05.04.2025 through E-procurement 2.0 portal at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:
1) Pre Bid Meeting Date Commenced on: **25.04.2025 at 11.30 AM**, 2) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **05.05.2025 upto 5.30 PM**, 3) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: **07.05.2025 upto 5.30 PM**, 4) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **09.05.2025 at 11.00 AM**, 5) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **16.05.2025 at 11.00 AM**
Postponement of Calendar of events (or if any information is only published through e-Procurement 2.0 portal only) and will not be published in newspapers.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/15/KSMC&A/2025-26
Sd/- Project Director
DUDC, Kalaburagi

BUILDING BLOCKS



GETTY IMAGES

The magic of a mirror: how is it able to show your reflection?

Materials that behave differently on the surface and inside, such as a metal outside and an insulator inside, are called topological materials. Such materials were discovered in the second half of the 20th century and some of its discoverers won the Nobel Prize for physics in 2016

Adhip Agarwala

Dressing up is probably one of the most annoying things. You stand in front of a mirror and try to find the right combination of clothes of various colours hoping you look more tolerable to people. This is probably one trait that distinguishes us from other animals: we spend a few good minutes every morning staring at a mirror.

Have you ever wondered, though, when we stare at a mirror, what we're really staring at?

What is a mirror?

Most mirrors feel like glass. They are heavy and break easily. But then if you stare at a glass, say your window, and you stare at a mirror, what you see are very different things.

On a bright day, glasses are transparent, and you can see the outside world through a glass window. At night, if you look at your window and if you are in a well-lit room, you will now see yourself. In a mirror, on the other hand, you always see yourself irrespective of whether it is day or night (and as long as it is not dark).

To understand the difference between a mirror and window glass, we need to learn about metals and insulators.

What are metals and insulators?

Metals are shiny things, like your steel cups and plates, the aluminium pressure cooker, and coins in your purse. Metallic objects are usually hard, not easy to break, and have a silvery shine. They also get hot and cold quite easily and can conduct current. It's one reason why we never touch a live socket using a spoon. Insulator objects on the other hand are made of glass, wood, and plastics. The things that usually don't conduct current also often don't look silvery.

An electric current is conducted by electrons. Atoms have both positively charged protons and negatively charged electrons. In a metal, electrons are like unruly, fun-loving kids: they leave their parent atoms and move around between different atoms, forming a big soup of electrons. On the other hand, in an insulator, every electron in an atom is a bit shy and stays close to the parent atom. Therefore when we put in a battery and try to push the electrons, they will move freely in a metal, since they are unruly, but in an insulator they won't. Therefore metals conduct current, insulators don't.

But the fact of how electrons behave towards batteries also decides how they behave when light falls on them.

How do light and electrons interact?

Light is an electromagnetic wave. A wave is any disturbance that moves periodically in time and can go from one point to another. For instance, when you drop a stone in a pond, you generate waves of water. When you speak, you generate waves of air, or sound waves.

When light falls on us – that's an electromagnetic wave, a periodic wave of electric and magnetic fields. Electric fields create forces that make electrons move, such as in your watch. Magnetic forces are the ones that keep your refrigerator magnets stuck on the door. But these forces don't change with time. When they start changing periodically in time they generate light, an electromagnetic wave.

Electrons behave very funnily when light falls on them. Just like we move periodically when someone pushes us on a swing, when light falls on electrons, these electrons start moving periodically in time, as if they are dancing.

But the way they dance in metal and insulators are different. Since in a metal, all electrons are in a soup, they dance in a group like a flash mob. But in an insulator, every electron just dances individually on its own, inside its atomic home.

The type of electron dance decides whether light can go through a material. When light falls on a metal, all these electrons team up and start dancing together. This obstructs the light so much that it can't go through the metal and just bounces back. On the other hand, in an insulator, since every shy electron just dances a bit in its atomic home, most of the light goes through.

This is why insulators such as glass let some light go through while metals usually don't.

This is also the reason why you can see your face very clearly on a steel plate or spoon. The light from your face is reflected fully by the plate and enters your eye. But on a day when you just look at a window, most of the light from your face just goes through the glass to the other side, making it hard to see yourself. Moreover there is light from the outside that enters the glass into your eye, making you see the outside world. In the night, however, there is little ambient light, so just the light from your well-lit room reflects a bit from the glass and you can see yourself.

How does a mirror work?

So how is it then that a mirror, which feels like glass, an insulator, reflects like a steel plate? This is because the mirror is not just a glass: it has a secret. While it is in fact made of glass, there is a thin layer of metal placed on its back side. The front side is glass that lets the light through but the back side is a metal, where the electrons dance to reflect the light.

This is what makes you see yourself every time you stare into a mirror. A mirror is thus not one material but two. Both the glass (of shy electrons) and metal (of unruly electrons) conspire to make a long-lasting mirror on your almirah or in the washroom.

We just learnt that the back surface of the mirror has a metal layer. Now imagine a block of glass where you put layers of silver on all its surfaces. This would be very strange: from the outside it will look like a metal but it won't be able to conduct current on the inside. We can create such an object using two different materials – glass and silver, say – but can these properties occur in an object made of a single material? Such a material would have to behave differently on the surface and inside, such as a metal outside and an insulator inside.

Such materials were discovered in the second half of the 20th century and are called topological materials. Some of their discoverers won the Nobel Prize for physics in 2016. More recently, Microsoft released a quantum-computing chip that is made of such topological materials.

To understand why all of this really works, one needs quantum mechanics, one of the most beautiful subjects known to us. In fact, the UN has declared 2025 to be the International year of Quantum Science and Technology. We are currently celebrating 100 years since scientists discovered its foundational principles.

Dance of electrons

While you may have understood a bit about mirrors, if you want to really understand why some electrons are unruly and some are shy or how electrons behave when light falls on them, consider learning quantum mechanics, a subject you can enjoy if you take a course in physics, for example here in IIT Kanpur where some of us teach.

In the meantime, when you next stare at a mirror, don't just look for yourself: also appreciate the dance of electrons, both in the glass and in the shiny metal layer at the back, which is sending your light back to you.

Adhip Agarwala is an assistant professor of physics at IIT Kanpur.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay died on this day in 1894. A quiz on the face of the Bengal Renaissance

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

This literary magazine was edited by Chattopadhyay and later by Rabindranath Tagore. Name it.

QUESTION 2

Vande Mataram, the national song of India, was first published as part of a novel. Name the novel by Chattopadhyay.

QUESTION 3

In 2018, Chattopadhyay became the focus of the West Bengal Assembly elections. The Home Minister said that a specific event could have been avoided if the Congress had adopted the entirety of Vande Mataram and not just the first two stanzas. Which event was he referring to?

QUESTION 4

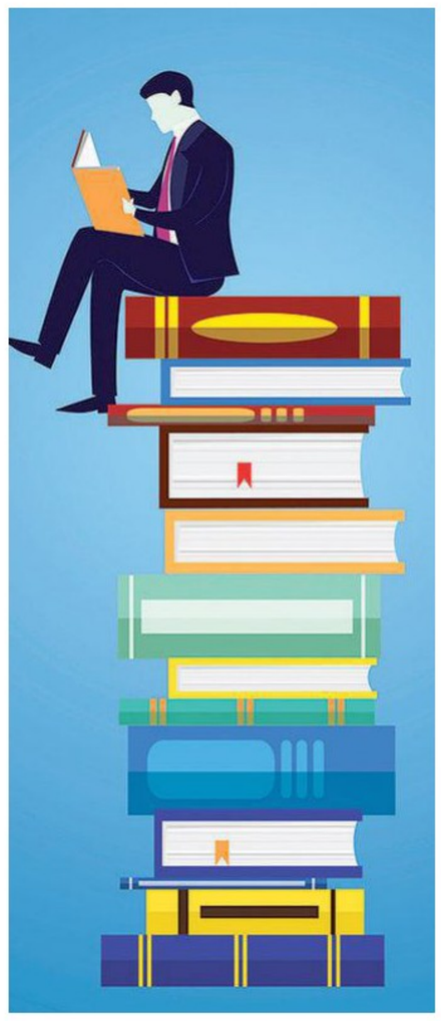
Tagore once referred to Chattopadhyay by a Sanskrit term that also happens to be the name of one of India's foremost fashion designers. What is the name and what does it mean?

QUESTION 5

This Vaishnava religious movement of 14th and 15th century Bengal inspired Chattopadhyay deeply. Name it.

Visual question:
Identify this place

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The third poet in the 'Lake Poets' trinity. **Ans: Robert Southey**
2. Name Wordsworth's semi-autobiographical magnum opus. **Ans: *The Prelude***
3. In which famous poem does the line 'The Child is father of the Man' feature. **Ans: *My Heart Leaps Up* or *The Rainbow***
4. This denomination of the British banknote featured the poet's likeness. **Ans: Five Pound note**
5. *The Solitary Reaper* is singing a plaintive song in this language. **Ans: Gaelic**
6. This poem came after a walking tour with Wordsworth's sister Dorothy. **Ans: *Tintern Abbey***
7. The name of which poet begins the sonnet 'London, 1802'. **Ans: John Milton**
Visual: Name the national flower of Wales. **Ans: Daffodils**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Haridas Pal| Tito Shiladitya| Manvi Yadav| Anna Krishna



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"…. and then, there's Gopa. I can't stand him. I tell you. He's …."

"…. What's the matter with you today? You sound as if you got up on the wrong side of the bed."

"I didn't know there was a wrong side to a bed!"

"There most certainly is. When you say that someone has got up on the wrong side of the bed, it means he/she is in a bad mood for no obvious reason. For example, yesterday, my boss was shouting at everyone. He must have got up on the wrong side of the bed."

"Does your boss very often get up on the wrong side of the bed?"

"Yes, he does, you see, he's a 'party animal' and…"

"… a 'party animal'? Is a 'Party animal' someone who likes parties?"

"Exactly! a 'party animal' is someone who loves parties. And my boss is a party animal."

"Gopa is a party animal too. What does your boss do at parties?

"I'm told he drinks like a fish."

"Drinks like a fish! What does it mean?"

"It means he drinks a lot."

"Alcohol?"

"Right again. According to this article, some of our leading film stars drink like a fish."

"It's not just film stars who drink. Our maid tells me that her husband drinks like a fish too. What's more, he smokes a lot too.

"Does your boss smoke?"

"He used to smoke. But now, he's kicked the habit."

"Kicked the habit! How can anyone kick a habit? A ball, yes, but a habit…"

"…. 'to kick the habit' means to 'break a habit'. For example, when I was young, I used to bite my finger nails. But now, I've kicked the habit."

"Meaning you have stopped biting your nails."

"Exactly!"

"My friend Karthick has been smoking for six years and he's trying to kick the habit."

"Good for him!"

Published in The Hindu on January 15, 1996.

Word of the day

Benign:
not dangerous to health; not recurrent or progressive (especially of a tumour); pleasant and beneficial in nature or influence; kindness of disposition or manner

Synonym: graciousness

Usage: *Her face was calm and benign.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/benignpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /bɪˈnaɪn/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Ramachandra Guha on the three waves of Indian environmentalism

At a recent talk at the National Centre of Biological Sciences, the Bengaluru-based writer and historian spoke about the modern origins of environmentalism and the three waves in India

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

In Guha's opinion, the second wave of environmentalism in India began in 1973, through the celebrated Chipko Movement.

Search operations near flattened houses after a massive landslide hit the Mundakkai village in Wayanad on August 1, 2024 . FILE PHOTO

Environmentalism, according to Dr. Ramachandra Guha, "like feminism, like socialism, like democracy," is a modern phenomenon. "It's really the product of the industrial revolution, which started in Europe and then, of course, moved to other parts of the world," says the Bengaluru-based writer and historian at a recent public lecture at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bengaluru. The Industrial Revolution, driven by fossil fuels, for the first time, saw radical transformations of transport and communication systems and gave birth not only to the factory system, but also to capitalism and colonialism, he adds, at this illuminating talk titled *The Three Waves of Environmentalism*.

Guha argues that the Industrial Revolution led to the devastation of landscapes and forests, the tainting of air and water on an unprecedented scale. "It is this colossal destruction that modern industrial technologies enabled for the first time, which gave birth to modern environmentalism...human beings could be architects of their own destruction unless they came up with alternate ways of organising politics, economics, society, technology and lifestyles to achieve some kind of equilibrium with their ecological surroundings," says Guha, suggesting that the English Romantic poet, William Wordsworth, was possibly the first modern environmentalist. "You can see it in his writings."

First wave of Indian environmentalism

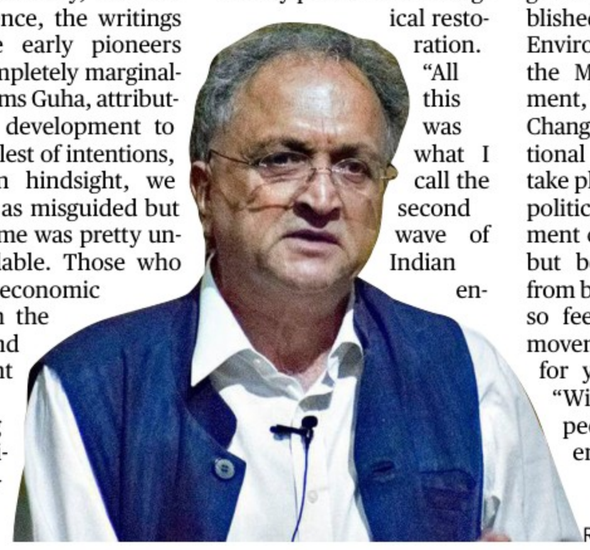
The Europeans did not take long to bring their destructive technologies to their colonies, including India. In the early 20th century, some intellectuals recognised the scale of environmental destruction that was beginning to unravel in the subcontinent. At the talk, Guha mentions his latest book, *Speaking with Nature*, which offers insights into the lives and thoughts of ten of these people who "collectively constitute the first wave of Indian environmentalism." He is also quick to point out that Mahatma Gandhi, though "one of the first Indians to recognise the unsustainability of western models of industrialisation", is not among the ten people featured in this book because "I have already written 2000 pages on Gandhi, and I thought that I should give that particular guy a break," he quips.

According to Guha, the first wave of Indian environmentalism sprang up at a time when India was beginning to industrialise, coinciding with the country's freedom struggle. As a result, some of those involved in the movement started thinking and writing about how India, when it became free, should develop and modernise, but they were clear that India should not model its growth after the manner of the West.

Guha lays out three principal reasons why some of these thinkers felt that India could not industrialise like the West: one, because of the sheer population of the country, 300 million back then, with a population-to-land ratio that was much higher than early industrialisers like England, France, Germany and the U.S.; two, because the West had already divided the whole world amongst themselves, and there were no new colonies to conquer, India had to live within its own resources; and finally, because tropical ecologies are more fragile than temperate ecologies.

Some of the ten thinkers featured in his book include the poet Rabindranath Tagore, "for whom harmonising human needs with ecological integrity was central to his writing, his educational work and his activism", the agricultural scientists and pioneers of modern organic farming Albert and Gabrielle Howard, "an extraordinary couple", the economist J.C. Kumarappa "who worked very closely with Gandhi" and the social economist and town planner, Patrick Geddes "who was Scottish by nationality, spent a decade in India from 1915 to 1924, writing more than 20 plans for Indian cities, foregrounding questions of urban sustainability."

Unfortunately, after independence, the writings of these early pioneers were completely marginalised, claims Guha, attributing this development to the "noblest of intentions, which in hindsight, we may see as misguided but at that time was pretty understandable. Those who built economic policy in the 50s and 60s went about adopting the capital-intensive, energy-intensive model of large-scale industrialisation pioneered by the West, thinking that it was the only way that India could develop."



Ramachandra Guha. NCBS

The Chipko Movement

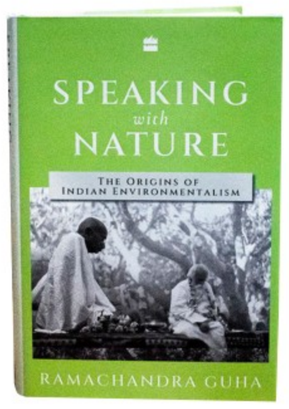
In Guha's opinion, the next wave of environmentalism in India began in 1973, through "the celebrated Chipko Movement." This forest conservation movement, consisting of peasants in the Himalayas hugging trees to prevent them from being felled, was significant in several ways, believes Guha: it was an indigenous, grassroots, bottom-up movement; it employed Gandhian techniques of non-violence; it blended concerns of environmental sustainability with social justice; and it was about both community protest and ecological restoration. "All this was what I call the second wave of Indian environmentalism, where, unlike the first wave, it was composed of activism and community mass participation," he argues.

Drawing comparisons between the first two modern environmental waves, Guha says that while the first wave was composed of critical intellectual work anticipating the destruction of what was to come, the second was a response to the destruction that actually happened and was articulated by these grassroots movements. "These movements had a significant impact on policy and administration," he says.

For instance, in 1974, the year after Chipko, the Planning Commission set up a committee for environmental planning for the first time, while the Indian government, in 1980, established the Department of Environment, now called the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. "Legal and institutional changes begin to take place, not because the politicians or the parliament come up with them, but because of pressure from below," he says. He also feels that the Chipko movement was significant for yet another reason: "Without Chipko, many people now teaching environmental history, environmental sociology in different parts of India would not have taken up that particular career trajectory," he says. "Without Chipko, I would not have been an environmental scholar."

Beyond climate change

The vigorous environmental activism of the 70s and 80s ended when India deregulated and opened up its economy in the 1990s, says Guha. "Now I am not a critic of economic liberalisation; in many ways it was necessary," he clarifies. However, while economic liberalisation raised rates of economic growth, reduced mass poverty and solved India's economic foreign exchange crisis, it "also led to a massively negative impact on the environment," adds Guha, who believes that while the government needed to deregulate the economy, it should have continued to regulate the environment "because the market cannot really solve environmental problems."



In response to the new economic agenda, the only people asking tough questions about economic liberalisation, except old-fashioned Marxists who thought the Soviet Union was an economic utopia, Guha insists, were the environmentalists. But they were often subjected to savage assaults, and seen as "the enemies of progress, the guys keeping India back," he says.

Now, after decades of environmental destruction following liberalisation, a new movement is finally beginning to emerge again. "It is incipient, just beginning...is visible among young people. And it is largely caused by the challenge of climate change," says Guha. In his opinion, however, it is too soon to comment on how this third wave of environmentalism, "the response of young people to what they see as a dark future for themselves and future generations," will take shape and evolve.

Dismal state

Guha goes on to paint a dismal picture of the state of the environment in India today, which he feels would still be abysmal even without climate change. "The first point I want to make is that even if climate change did not exist, India would be an environmental disaster," he states. For instance, many of the major environmental challenges assailing the country today, including air pollution, river death, chemical contamination of soil, degradation of groundwater aquifers, biodiversity decline and the proliferation of invasive species, "are independent of climate change."

He also points out that though these environmental issues may not have anything to do with climate change, climate change intensifies their impact, further elucidating this point by talking about the dangers faced by the Himalayas and Western Ghats. "Unregulated, careless building of roads, reckless expansion of tourist resorts and mining, all of which make these ecologies more fragile. And then you have climate change that adds onto it and intensifies the devastation."

On the slightly more positive side, India today has a vast reservoir of scientific and social scientific expertise that can help mitigate our environmental crisis, unlike in the past. The country's universities and research institutes have ecologists, soil scientists, agronomists, hydrologists, urban planners, transport and energy experts who, he says, "combine professional expertise of an international standard with deep field experience of socio-environmental conditions." "In this respect, India may be blessed. It is unlikely that any other country in Asia and Africa has it." Unfortunately, "these domain experts are largely, if ever, consulted by politicians in power, and if they are, their proposals are never implemented," he rues, pointing out that this disregard for environmental sustainability operates across political parties.

In his view, this is "a critical time for the environmental development debate in India." The question that needs to be confronted, according to him, is this: How does one lift people out of poverty, give them access to social services, to education, to dignified employment, without undermining the interest and needs of future generations, indeed the interest and needs of nature itself?

"The third wave of Indian environmentalism that is emerging, and the work of scientists in this room can help take this forward."

28-year-old man from Bengaluru gives gift of life to eight people

Both eyes donated to Narayana Netralaya, both lungs to Manipal Hospital, the liver to HCG Hospital, heart valves to Manipal Hospitals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At Fortis Hospital, Nagarbhavi, multiple organs were successfully retrieved and donated from a 28-year-old road accident victim who had passed away after a road accident.

The young man was rushed to the hospital with severe head injuries and oral bleeding in a critically unstable state. Upon arrival, a CT scan of the head revealed a rapidly enlarging blood clot in the brain. Despite immediate medical and intensive intervention, his condition continued to deteriorate. The patient was later declared brain dead.

The organs included his eyes, lungs, liver, heart valves and kidneys and skin. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Multi-organ retreival

"Amidst profound sorrow and grief, the family displayed courage by consenting to donate the organs of the loved one, which included his eyes, lungs, liver, heart valves and kidneys and Skin. The entire process of multi-organ retrieval took around five hours," the hospital said in a press release. The organs from the donor saved the lives of eight persons across various city-based hospitals in Bengaluru, with both eyes donated to Narayana Netralaya, both lungs to Manipal Hospital, the liver to HCG Hospital, heart valves to Manipal Hospitals, and one kidney to Ramaiah Hospital.

The second kidney was transplanted into a 41-year-old woman at Fortis Hospital Nagarbhavi, who had been suffering from kidney failure for the past seven years. The lungs and heart valves were immediately transported via a green corridor, created between Fortis Hospital Nagarbhavi and Manipal Hospital HAL-Old Airport Road, covering approximately 20 km in mere 29 minutes, the release said. Pradeep Kumar S., Medical Director, Fortis Hospital, Nagarbhavi, said, "We honour the donor and deeply appreciate the family's selfless decision to embrace organ donation, offering the gift of life to those in need. This life-saving donation wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our medical team and the seamless coordination with the traffic police and SOTTO. We hope this inspiring act encourages more individuals to register as organ donors and thus save more lives."

Dr. Tejaswini Parthasarathy, Facility Director, Fortis Hospital Nagarbhavi, said, "Retrieving eight organs in a limited span of time is a highly complex procedure requiring skilled surgeons, precise coordination, and seamless logistics. Each organ had to be retrieved, preserved, and transported within strict timeframes, involving multiple hospitals, ambulance teams, and law enforcement. Our medical team worked tirelessly to ensure every organ reached its recipient in the best condition."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 8, 1975

No Decision by Centre on Belgaum: Report Denied

Bangalore, April 7: The Union Minister, Mr. K. Brahmananda Reddi, has denied that the Government of India has taken any decision on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute or that the Centre has decided to transfer Belgaum City to Maharashtra in return for monetary compensation to Karnataka.

The Union Home Minister's denial was conveyed here today to the PCC President, Mr. K.H. Patil.

Mr. Patil told the pressmen that the moment he read a report in a Kannada daily that the Centre had decided on the transfer of Belgaum to Maharashtra, he got in a telephonic touch with the union Home minister. The latter denied knowledge of any such decision and had asked him to deny the suggestion on his authority.

The press report had figured in both the Houses of the State Legislature today.

CITYBEATS

Deep dive into jazz

APRIL 11
Banyan Tree presents its fifth edition of the World Jazz Festival in collaboration with the Amersfoort Jazz Festival from The Netherlands. Round Midnight Orchestra, Lucas Santana Brazilian Experience and South African Darren English are some of the performers this year. *At Chowdiah Memorial Hall, 6.30pm. Tickets on BookMyShow.*

Flavour of summer

ONGOING
Khandani Rajdhani is hosting the Aamlicious Festival 2025 with a menu that features mango-powered cuisines, served alongside Rajdhani's signature thali. Aamras, tangy kachi kairi preparations, mango dal, mango pulao, and a range of desserts are some of dishes to savour. *Available across all All Khandani Rajdhani outlets, till May 31.*

Mild and mellow

ONGOING
Savour the varied flavours of Mangga (mango in Malay) with this menu that presents this fruit in avatars such as N&M mangga salad, ayam satay madura, spicy mango sushi rolls and other main course dishes.
Available at Nasi and Mee (Convent Road, Manyata Tech Park, Bellandur, and Koramangala), between noon to 11pm everyday.

Shower of melodies

Interesting jugalbandis, a jaltarang concert and a symposium are some of the offerings at this year's Ramanavami programme at the Sree Ramaseva Mandali in Chamarajpet

Ranjani Govind

There are nearly 35 Ramothsava banners in Bengaluru heralding the music season, starting with the distribution of *kosambri and paanaka* to beat the heat wave that seems to be a part of this Ramanavami celebrations.

So, what sets apart the Sree Ramaseva Mandali celebrations at Fort High School grounds in Chamarajpet? SN Varadaraj, son of founder SV Narayanaswmay Rao (known as SVN Rao), says, in many places of Karnataka, especially Mysore, Ramanavami was celebrated with music, decorations and food. In 1939, his father SVN Rao, established this mandali for the purpose of integrating different celebratory practices.

The initial three-day celebrations that marked the founders' love for music is now in its 87th year. "The most respected names in classical music from all over India have graced this temple of music as C Rajagopalachari termed it, as even the erstwhile Mysore Royals were patrons of the mandali," says Vardaraj.

"This year, we will have a total of 56 concerts from April 6 to May 2, apart from Ramayana discourses. The 27-day offering will see as many as 225 artistes gracing the mandali platform." Vardaraj adds the event will play out in a 40,000 squarefoot waterproof *pandal* with 6,000 seats and LED screens.

Goodwill and grandeur
Varadaraj recalls the initial years when SVN Rao would book star performers of the time over the telephone, offering them ₹20 as an advance. "Neither Chembai nor his student, Yesudas, accepted a paisa; vocalist Balamurali Krishna was given ₹12 for his concerts; sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan considered his performance, a 'service to the Lord'."

Season's special Musicians Jayanti Kumaresh, Shahid Pervez and Vidyabhushana will be performing at the Ramaseva Mandali this year. THE HINDU AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Violin Chowdiah and MS Subbulakshmi would instantly donate whatever they received during Ramanavami, while Mandolin Shrinivas would humbly accept only divine blessings, Varadaraj says. "Top names from Karnataka such as RK Srikantan and Veena Doreswamy Iyengar as well as mridangist Umayalapuram Sivaraman from Chennai, were given ₹500 for their concerts."

Musical impetus
Buoyed by the encouragement and passion of SVN Rao and ghatam exponent KS Manjunath, several Ramaseva samitis and mandalis began to take shape in the city. Nearly 120 years ago, compounder Subba Rao started the Rama Bhaktha Sabha and SVN Rao began his Mandali in Chamarajpet in 1939. Soon, every area in the city echoed with music during Ramanavami, and it eventually came to be known as 'Bangalore's Music Season'.

In the early-1940s, Narayanaswamy was introduced to violin legend T Chowdiah and flute Mahalingam, both of whom developed an instant affection for the mandali and its purpose. Their strategy to help the Ramaseva Mandali banner flourish was simple – get stars to perform with the bonus that Chowdiah would accompany them on his violin.

Gradually, the mandali's fame grew and connoisseurs would eagerly wait for programme listings to make their bookings a month in advance. "Today, we have a high digital reach. After we announced the programme on our Facebook page this year, we had over 4.1 million clicks," says Abhijith Varadaraj, who helps his father SN Varadaraj, with the running of the mandali.

Rewards and recognition
Musical Ramothsava celebrations are a unique feature of Karnataka, says vocalist Vidyabhushana, who will be receiving the SVN Rao Global Award for Music this year. A close associate of the family, he says, "As a violinist himself, Rao understood what it took for musicians to be recognised. His reason for inviting star musicians was not to set an affluent ambience, but to help performers and *rasikas* understand the values associated in opening up a cultural identity for pre-Independent India."

"If there is one season that democratises classical music, it is Ramanavami, as several mandalis and samitis work towards an inclusive and comprehensive offering for one and all," he adds.

Mandali specials for 2025
- As this year marks the 250th birth centenary of saint composer Muthuswamy Dikshitar, all artistes will be taking up at least one of Dikshitar's compositions
- Embracing tradition with a modern twist is Carnatic Adda, a seven-member group, which will present Sangeeta Seva on Hanumad Jayanthi on April 12
- Vedic scholar and orator Dushyanth Sridhar will present his Harikatha discourse on 'Sakala Grahabala Neene' on April 15.
- Parampara jugalbandi by slide guitarists Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and Salil Bhatt alongside violinists Mysore Manjunath and Sumanth Manjunath is scheduled for April 19
- Bangalore Brothers Hariharan and Ashok will be accompanied on the mridanga by doyen Umayalapuram K Sivaraman on April 22.

Arizona-based sitar maestro Ustad Shahid Parvez will be stepping into the mandali as a first timer to accept the Special SVN Rao Global Award for Music in Hindustani. "This is where stalwarts such as Bade Ghulam Ali Khan and Amjad Ali Khan have been honoured. I consider it more than a blessing to receive the award and play for Bengaluru audiences," says Ustad Shahid.

The Rama Gana Kalacharya Award of the Mandali will be bestowed on veena exponent Jayanthi Kumaresh this year. "The Ramanavami melodies at Fort High School, remain a part of growing up for many, much like the Kadalekai Parishe, which is an intrinsic part of Bengaluru culture," says Jayanthi, daughter of violinist Lalgudi Rajalakshmi.

"I have played the tambura for my uncle violinist Lalgudi Jayaraman and have accompanied my mother on stage at the mandali as a junior artiste."

"As my husband and I enter these portals for our 'Strings Attached' concert, we hope to create good memories for younger connoisseurs attending this devotional platform," adds the musician, who is married to violinist Kumaresh.

For programme details, log on to ramamavami.org, season tickets on ramanavamitickets.com

Tulu film takes on tradition and taboo

Shilpa Nair Anand

Hard hitting Santhosh Mada with Devi Nair on the set of *Pidayi*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Tulu film, *Pidayi*, was declared runner-up in the Kannada film category at the recently-concluded 16th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes). What makes it interesting is that the director, Santhosh Mada, is a Malayali from Kannur.

Having spent his childhood in Mangalore, Karnataka, and nearby Manjeshwaram in Kerala, interacting with the Tulu-speaking community and studying in a Kannada medium school, he developed an affinity for the people and the language. It is one of the languages he grew up speaking, says Kochi-based Santhosh over the phone.

Before *Pidayi*, there was *Jeetige*, another of his films, which won the National Award for the best Tulu film at the 68th National Film Awards (2022). While *Jeetige* is special, *Pidayi*, his latest film, is dear to him. The film was selected in two categories – Chitrabharathi and Kannada cinema.

Pidayi focuses on menstrual untouchability – the taboo surrounding menstruation. The story is about what happens when a modern, educated city-bred woman marries into a tradition-bound joint family. While she enjoys the advantages of being in a traditional family, the women being 'banished' to an isolated room outside the house while menstruating does not sit well with her. The film is about what follows and the changes thereof.

"Menstrual untouchability is practised even today in many families. My mother used to become 'untouchable' those days of the month and I have wondered about it as a child," says Santhosh, 48. His questioning of the custom is nuanced yet hard hitting like the climax for instance, when the room where women stay during menstruation is converted into a puja room and the puja room becomes a study.

Making films in Tulu was not his plan initially. He wanted to make Malayalam films. The nephew of lyricist and music director Kaithaparam Damodaran Namboodiri, he grew up around Malayalam films. While accompanying his grandfather, actor Unnikrishnan Namboodiri to Chennai for a shoot, he met an assistant director Ayyappan, "He was the same age as me. That gave me the inspiration that I can also do it". Santhosh has assisted directors Jayaraj and Kamal."

Tulu film, *Pidayi*, was a runner-up in the Kannada film category at the recently-concluded BIFFes

Although his Malayalam debut film was announced it did not pan out. What did happen was an opportunity to make a Tulu film, *Lucky Babu*, which was completed only recently. In the meanwhile, the other films happened.

Santhosh first heard of *pidayi* from writer Ramesh Shettigar. "That was when I first heard of it. Ramesh was planning a short story on it. But I felt there was a film in it. The story resonated with our producer and his wife as well. We decided then to make a film. However, I wanted it to be a musical film, which is why I have included three bhajans."

Having his uncle, with whom he lived as a youngster, write the lyrics for a film of his has been a long-cherished dream, which was realised with *Pidayi*. "There is a culture of bhajans sessions being organised at Tulu-speaking homes. It is a kind of 'get together' where the neighbourhood gathers to sing bhajans following, which *prasad* is distributed. And that presented me with an opportunity to have my uncle write the lyrics."

With Kaithapram on board for the lyrics, Santhosh got in touch with popular Kannada vocalist Vidyabhushana. "He has never sung for films, this was a first for him. But I was able to convince him." Ajayan Namboodiri is the music composer while the background score is by Deepankuran Kannadimana, Kaithaparam's son. The editor of the film is multi-award winning Suresh Urs. The actors include Sharath Lohithashva, Devi Nair, Roopa Vorkady, Illa Vitla, Deepak Rai Panaje and Pusparaj Bolar. Devi, who plays the lead character Narayani (Nani), is yesteryear actor, Jalaja's daughter.

Although he became a filmmaker via Tulu, he plans to make Malayalam films too in the future.

On being asked if there will be a theatrical release, Santhosh answers in the affirmative.

Summer countdown The setting for Mission Interstellar by Wonderla. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A galactic adventure awaits

Chandan M Naik

As I stepped into Wonderla Bengaluru on a sun-drenched afternoon, I could feel the buzz in the air. The amusement park, a beloved staple for thrill-seekers across India, had just unveiled its latest marvel – Mission Interstellar, a next-generation space voyage ride that promised to catapult visitors beyond the stars.

Launched on March 28, just ahead of the company's 25th anniversary, this cutting-edge attraction had already sparked whispers of excitement. I was about to find out why.

The opening was a star-studded affair with actress Ashika Ranganath cutting the ribbon alongside Wonderla's top brass – Executive Chairman and Managing Director, Arun K Chittilappilly, Chief Operating Officer, Dheeran Choudhary, and Park Head Bengaluru, Rudresh HS. Today, it was my turn to step into the spaceship and experience what Arun called the company's "most ambitious and expensive ride to date".

From the moment I approached the ride, I knew this was not your average amusement park fare. The entrance, designed like a sleek spacecraft, pulled me into its orbit.

Inside, a sprawling 6,500 square foot air-conditioned queue area offered welcome respite from the heat, complete with a preview hall that set the stage for what was to come.

Strapped into one of the 60 seats, one felt a surge of anticipation as the hydraulic lift system, imported from Italy, hummed to life. Suddenly, we were soaring 40 feet into the air, surrounded by a massive 22m x 15m curved LED screen that enveloped us in a 3,500 sq. ft. cosmic embrace.

The visuals were breathtaking, crisp, vivid, and so immersive that one could almost feel the void of space closing in. Wind effects whipped through the cabin, synchronised perfectly with the high-tech laser projections, while a 46,000-watt sound system roared, amplifying every pulse-pounding moment.

The ride is a game-changer. Comfortable and suitable for all ages, it is the kind of experience that makes you want to call up your friends and say, "You have to try this."

Dheeran Choudhary, the COO, shared that Wonderla was partnering with schools to weave education into the experience, turning Mission Interstellar into an "edutainment" adventure.

The ride is more than just a thrill, it is a journey.

Karnataka HC seeks details on ₹80 crore Safai Karmachari rehabilitation package

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

What happened to ₹80 crore sanctioned by the State government for Kolar district alone back in 2018 for the rehabilitation of hundreds of Safai Karmacharis (manual scavengers) is a mystery, the High Court of Karnataka observed, while noticing that hundreds of Safai Karmacharis are yet to get even a rupee of financial assistance of the ₹10 lakh rehabilitation package offered to them.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations on a batch of petitions filed by Velram and others from Kolar distict. It has been stated in their petitions that the Government of India abolished the employment of persons as manual scavengers by notifying the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, and the State Government, in terms of the Act, had rendered financial assistance for the rehabilitation of safai karmacharis.

The State government had offered ₹9 lakh as loan in installments and ₹1 lakh as grant for every eligible safai karmachari for the purpose of helping them establishing various small stores to eke out their livelihood, so that they do not indulge in the activity that was prohibited. The grant for rehabilitation package was released to the Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Development Corporation Ltd. He pointed out that they have not received even a rupee as financial assistance despite their names being found in the list of eligible persons for the rehabilitation package for Safai Karmacharis, for which the Government granted ₹80 crore for Kolar district in May 2018.

It has been claimed by the petitioners that the Board had adopted a pick and choose method as only 300 people were chosen for the rehabilitation package. It was also pointed out that despite shortlisting persons, not a single rupee was paid to them though seven years had lapsed. It was also pointed out to the court that the Board later had cancelled ₹9 lakh to be given as loans and restricted the package only to ₹1 lakh but nothing has been paid even from this.

The HC noted arguments on behalf of the petitioners that the Safai Karmacharis were starving today and it had become difficult for them to manage two meals a day, and they had gone back to the work of manual scavenging since they had been driven to penury. It has asked the corporation to explain why the package was restricted to ₹1 lakh, why financial aid was not given, and what happened to ₹80 crore sanctioned, while adjourning further hearing till April 23.

Waqf Tribunal approves Munambam residents' plea

The petition was to implead them in the land dispute case filed by Farook College management against decision of Kerala State Waqf Board to enlist their land in Munambam as Waqf property

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

The three-member Waqf Tribunal on Monday approved the plea of Munambam natives to implead them in the land dispute case filed by the Farook College management against the Kerala State Waqf Board's decision to enlist the Munambam land as Waqf property.

The arguments of the Munambam natives will be heard when the court considers the college management's petition. The hearing in the case will resume on Tuesday.

The college management's appeal was that the Munambam property was not Waqf but a gift deed made by the family members of Mohammed Siddique Sait who earlier owned the 404-acre property in Munambam. However, the Waqf Board concluded that the property was alienated without its permission. It also argued that the children of Mohammed Siddeeq had also approached the Board to repossess the Waqf property.

The representatives of the Munambam residents said the concerns of nearly 600 landholders in Munambam who either purchased the land from the Farook College management or inherited it several decades ago could be presented in a better way in the court with the latest approval.

They also said the disputes emerged nearly 35 years after the purchase of land by them.

Fight over land: A march by the BJP Minority Morcha against alleged encroachment by the Waqf Board at Munambam. H. VIBHU

Judicial panel can function, rules court

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A Division Bench of the High Court on Monday permitted the inquiry commission headed by former High Court judge C.N. Ramachandran Nair on Munambam land issue to function as an interim arrangement after staying a single judge's verdict quashing the appointment of the commission. The Bench comprising Chief Justice Nitin Jamdar and Justice S. Manu passed the interim order while admitting an appeal filed by the State government.

ED grills *Empuraan* producer for five hours

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned businessman and film producer Gokulam Gopalan at its zonal office here as part of the agency's probe into the alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, by his chit fund company.

Mr. Gopalan, who co-produced the controversial movie *L2: Empuraan,* starring Mohanlal, appeared at the office around 40 minutes past noon and left the premises after the interrogation that lasted for over five hours.

He told presspersons that the agency had the powers to ask him questions and he had submitted his reply to the queries. However, he refused to comment on whether the questioning had anything to do with the movie.

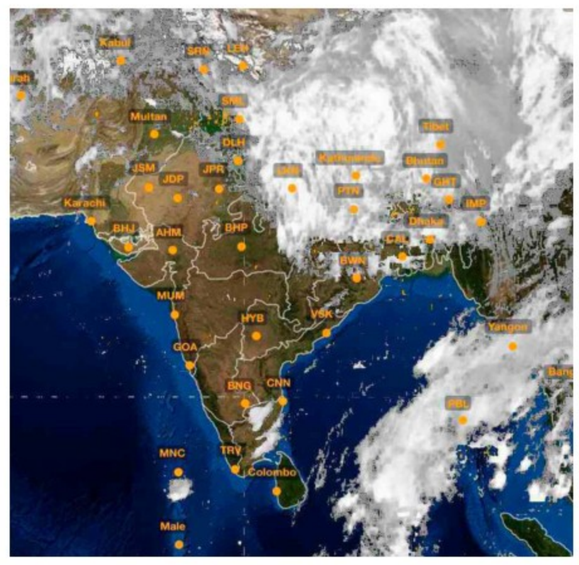
The Kochi zonal office of the agency had issued a release on April 5 stating that searches were held on April 4 and 5 at one location in Kozhikode and at two locations in Chennai, owned by Sree Gokulam Chits and Finance Co. Private Ltd.

The agency has said it seized ₹1.5 crore in cash and "incriminating" documents in "violation" of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) during the searches.

The release said the investigation was initiated based on the specific intelligence gathered that the company, "without due permission from the competent authority", was collecting subscriptions to chit funds from people residing outside India.
(With PTI inputs)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	34.6	21.2	Kozhikode	—	34.5	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	42.9	25.3	Kurnool	—	40.5	26.8
Aizawl	15	33.7	16.1	Lucknow	—	39.2	20.3
Allahabad	—	41.8	20.1	Madurai	55	34.8	21.6
Bengaluru	—	34.4	22.9	Mangaluru	—	34.4	26.4
Bhopal	—	41.6	22.7	Mumbai	—	36.2	24.3
Bhubaneswar	—	36.8	25.6	Mysuru	—	38.0	22.0
Chandigarh	—	37.6	19.9	New Delhi	—	40.2	20.2
Chennai	—	35.5	27.7	Patna	—	36.1	25.8
Coimbatore	3	35.0	22.9	Port Blair	11	31.4	26.7
Dehradun	—	35.9	18.2	Puducherry	—	34.6	26.7
Gangtok	—	21.7	13.5	Pune	—	42.2	23.7
Goa	—	36.0	27.0	Raipur	—	41.2	25.1
Guwahati	—	33.4	20.7	Ranchi	—	37.5	20.4
Hubballi	—	39.0	24.0	Shillong	—	24.3	11.5
Hyderabad	—	37.7	23.7	Shimla	—	30.2	16.2
Imphal	—	30.5	19.2	Srinagar	—	28.2	9.4
Jaipur	—	41.8	26.0	Thiruvananthapuram	9	33.2	25.6
Kochi	6	33.4	24.4	Tiruchi	6	36.3	24.0
Kohima	9	22.4	13.4	Vijayawada	—	37.8	26.5
Kolkata	—	35.8	26.2	Visakhapatnam	—	34.8	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.45	..32	15	... 152	...126	
Bengaluru	..—	..36	29	 47	...168	
Chennai	.18	1	84	 52	39	
Delhi	.43	208	62	... 268	...334	
Hyderabad	...5	..88	..9	... 100	99	
Kolkata	...7	..22	19	 58	58	
Lucknow	.24	..43	48	... 240	...194	
Mumbai	...7	..68	44	 66	...112	
Pune	.15	129	47	... 131	...121	
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	.—	..... —	.....—	.....—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Panchgaon, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 282 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nandesari, Gujarat recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम — A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
BENGALURU

E-AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION)
UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (BAANKNET)** through the website **https://baanknet.com/**

Sl. No.	1)Name of the Borrower / Guarantor(s) 2)Name of the Branch and Secured Creditor	1) Secured Debt outstanding 2) Reserve Price 3) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount	1) Last date of deposit of EMD 2) Last date of KYC documents 3) EMD A/c no. 4) Bid Factor	1. Date of Auction 2. Time of Auction 3. Date & Time of Inspection
1	1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) : 1. Shri Sreenivasa Babu V 2. Mrs Preethi S Babu Both are at : Flat No. S-08, Sapna Apartments, Block 2, Basavapura, Devasandra Main Road, KP Puram Main Road, Bangalore- 560049. 3. Mr. Naveen Kumar V No. 27, BenakaRajashree Layout 3rd Cross Munekolala, Bangalore-560037 2) Canara Bank - Vasanthnagar Branch Ph. No. 9760881151	1) Rs.37,84,132.20 plus further interest & charges 2) Mentioned each property below.	1) 23.04.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 23.04.2025 upto 5.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 20,000/-	1. 24.04.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 22.04.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: Residential Building in the name of Mr. SrinivasaBabu at Site No. 30, CMS Khata No. 557, Survey No. 24, Flat no. S-08, at Sapna Block II, Second Floor, Site No. 30, Basavanapura Village, Krishna Raja Puram, Bengaluru- 560036. **On the North by:** 20 Feet Road, **On the South by:** Site No. 35 and 36, **On the East by:** Private Property and **On the West by:** 30 Feet Road. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.31,15,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 3,12,000.00**			
2	1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) : 1)Sri Sudhir Kumar Sahu S/o Sri Sushil Kumar Sahu 2) Smt Shantha Kumari B Both are at : No. 12 Indrashree, 1st Main Road, Amarjyothi layout, 1st Cross, Cholanagara, Hebbal Bangalore- 560024 3) Mr. Allen Jacob S/o Anthony Jacob No. 45, 4th Main, Anandanagara SBM Colony, Bangalore-560024 2) Canara Bank - Vasanthnagar Branch Ph. No. 9760881151	1) Rs.66,65,616.20 plus further interest & charges 2) Mentioned each property below.	1) 23.04.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 23.04.2025 upto 5.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 20,000/-	1. 24.04.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 22.04.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No. G-07, Ground floor, Sapna Apartments, Block-2, Ayyappa Nagar, Devasandra Main Road, Krishna Raja Puram Hobli, Bengaluru- 560036 within the registration Sub-District K R Puram, and district Bengaluru. Bounded on the **North by:** Flat no. G-06, **South by:** Private property, **East by:** Private property, **West by:** Flat no. G-08. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.18,25,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 1,82,000.00**			
3	1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) : 1. Shri Sankar G S/o C Ganesan No. 201 RR Enclave, Kachnanayakanahalli Police Layout Jigani Hennagara Post, Bengaluru Rural. Also Residing At SHRI SANKAR G No. 22, G Floor, Ramaiah Street, Near Om Shakthi Temple Vannarpet, Viveknagar Post, Bengaluru- 560047 2) Canara Bank - Gandhinagar Branch Ph. No. 9443114378	1) Rs.30,27,328.88 plus further interest & charges 2) Mentioned each property below.	1) 23.04.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 23.04.2025 upto 5.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 1,00,000/-	1. 24.04.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 22.04.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Residential Property bearing no 4, Khata No 526/117-118-199-25/2B/4, then Khata No 526/117, 118, 119/4 of the Bangalore City Police Housing Co-Operative Society Ltd, formed out of Sy Nos 117, 118, 119 of Kachanayakanhalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 60 Feet and North to South : 40 Feet totally measuring 2400 Sq ft and bounded on **East By :** Site no 277 , **West By :** Road, **North By :** Site no, 3 , **South By :** Part of Site no.4/A, Old No 4. **SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY :** 320 Square feet of Undivided Share, right , title and interest in the land comprising in Schedule "A" Property mentioned above together with Three Bed Rooms, Apartment Bearing No 201 in the Second Floor measuring 1310 Square feet of Super built up Area with Vitrified tiles flooring, with One Car Parking Slot be the part of Multi storied residential complex known as '' R.R ENCLAVE" constructed at Schedule 'A' property along with one half part in depth of the joints between the ceiling of the apartments and the floor of the space above it and internal and external walls such level as with concealed wiring with proportionate share in common access and areas of the building like entrance foyer, common corridors in all floors, stair cases including landing up to the terrace, machine room, housing and lift machineries of passenger elevator along with necessary cabin, winches and motor etc, pump sets, houses in pump room along with necessary valves, starters etc, and common areas electrical system. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.49,12,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 4,91,000.00**			

For all details contact at Regional Office, MG Road, Bangalore. Contact Numbers - 1) 70107 03787, 2) 79797 89851

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please logon to our website **www.canarabank.com** under "E-Auction" or contact the branch.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 07.04.2025

Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayath Building, S.Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, (Near Banashankari Temple), Bangalore-560070.

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-1/02/2025-26 Dated:04.04.2025

KPPP TENDER NOTICE (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION No.02/2025-26

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D Bangalore Urban, For 5054/2023-24 Grants works. (RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13532, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13636, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13635, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13633, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13601, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13606, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13613, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13604, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13608, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13533, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13615, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13804, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13805, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13807)

The work details can be obtained from the KPPP Websitethe Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated:15.04.2025 upto 4.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from Website at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or Contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/AAA/120/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
South-2	BWSSB/EES2/TO/PB/2640/2024-25 Dt: 29/03/2025 (3rd Call)	Rs.93,22,440/- / Rs.1,86,500/-	16-04-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	17-04-2025 after 4.00 p.m.
		Sd/- Executive Engineer, (South)-2.		
South West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/46/2025-26 Dt: 07/04/2025 (2nd Call)	Rs.76,79,619/- / Rs.1,53,600/-	15-04-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	16-04-2025 after 4.05 p.m.
		Sd/- Executive Engineer, (South West)-1.		

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO122/25-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to Purchase the property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owner **Sri. Veerappa M Annigeri,** S/o. late Mallappa, who has represented that he has a clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions, statutory authorities or any other persons/s representing any private or public companies or any partnership firm or any society who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned, within Seven (7) days from the date of issue of this notice with documentary evidence failing which, it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and any objection/s or claims made thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of portion of agricultural land measuring 1 Acre 1 Gunta in Sy.No.8/1, (earlier forming portion of land in Sy.No.8) of Muttagadahalli Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the:

East by : Property belonging to Shakuntala and Gangachannaih (Sy.No.9).
West by : Land bearing Sy.No.8
North by : Land bearing Sy.No.8.
South by: Doddaballapur to Dabaspet - Government Road. (National Highway - 207)

B. R. Ravi Kumar
Advocates
No.537, 10th 'B' Cross, Yelahanka New Town, **Bangalore - 560 064**

Office of the Executive Engineer
Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Ranchi West, Ranchi

EoI No- 1/CDO/Ranchi/Empanelment/2025-26 Dated: - 04.04.2025

Expression of Interest

Inviting Expression of interest for empanelment of only indigenous manufacturers of HDPE / MDPE pipe to be included as recommended makes to be used in ongoing and forthcoming Water Supply Schemes funded by Jal Jeevan Mission / 15th Finance Funds / Funds from other sources in Jharkhand through Online bidding.

1. Date of uploading of EOI On http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in : 09.04.2025 at 3.00 PM
2. Pre-Bid meeting at CDO, DW&SD, Jharkhand, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 : 15.04.2025 at 3.00 PM.
3. Last date & time of online submission : 05.05.2025 up to 04.00 PM
4. Opening Date of Technical Bid : 06.05.2025 at 5.00 PM
5. EOI application Fee : Rs. 10,000/- only (non-refundable)
7. Helpline No. : +91 9430725642 /8709958093
8. EoI application Fee should be Paid Rs 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) (Non- Refundable) through Online Gateway Facilities two mode- Net Banking (SBI & 61 Others Bank) as well as NEFT/RTGS Challan Mode in favour of **Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Ranchi West** payable at **Ranchi**. **(As per IT & e-governance Department Letter-120, Date-03.10.2023 attached Annexure-1) Payment gateway of designated bank i.e. SBI for all Govt. Department.**
9. Performance Guarantee should be Rs 2,50,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only) through Online Gateway Facilities two mode- Net Banking (SBI & 61 Others Bank) as well as NEFT/RTGS Challan Mode in favour of **Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Ranchi West** payable at **Ranchi**. Performance Guarantee will be returned after the expiry of Seven years, extendable as and when required from the date of empanelment and after satisfactory completion of work. **(As per IT & e-governance Department Letter-120, Date-03.10.2023) Payment gateway of designated bank i.e. SBI for all Govt. Department.** EoI application fee, Performance Guarantee & Bid Documents separately in Online Mode shall be deposited. Only those applications will be entertained whose EoI application fee, Performance Guarantee & bid documents is being received separately and properly superscribed in Online Mode. The office of Executive Engineer, D.W. & S. Division, Ranchi West Ranchi will not be held responsible for any failure in payment by online Method.
10. In the event date specified for receipt / opening of technical bid is declared a holiday, the due date for submission and opening, will be the following next working day at the appointed time.
11. Bid validity shall be 180 days from the date of opening bid.
12. The Department reserves the right to cancel, revise or amend this notice or bid documents fully or partly prior to the last date notice for submission of offers or on any subsequent date.
13. All legal disputes will be entertained within the jurisdiction of Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi.
14. Bid Documents/ Any changes & Further details can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
D.W. & S. Division, Ranchi West, Ranchi

PR 349864 Drinking Water and Sanitation(25-26).D

Inconclusive chapter

Tamil Nadu should help prepare its students for clearing NEET

With President Droupadi Murmu withholding assent for the Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill 2021, the State is bracing for another battle against National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)-based admissions. State Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has convened a meeting of legislature party leaders on April 9 to strategise the next move. With the admission season approaching, the development is bound to cause uncertainty and make medical aspirants anxious. Exemption from NEET now remains an inconclusive chapter in the State's decade-old policy discourse. No other State effort to legislate against a central mandate has been so protracted and unpredictable. In September 2017, two anti-NEET Bills met with a similar fate in Rashtrapati Bhavan. Four years later, the ruling DMK – having made NEET exemption a central electoral promise – passed the Bill in the Assembly based on the recommendations of the Justice A.K. Rajan Committee. Instead of forwarding it for presidential assent, Governor R.N. Ravi returned it to the House after five months. In a historic first, the Assembly unanimously re-adopted the Bill and sent it back to him; the Governor subsequently forwarded it to the President. Last week, Mr. Stalin informed the Assembly that assent had been denied, without specifying when Rashtrapati Bhavan had communicated the decision.

This delay in the matter attaining finality is concerning as students have been left facing a state of perpetual uncertainty. The State remains firm in its policy of conducting admission for government quota medical seats based on the Class 12 Board examination scores. Early on, the Ministry of Home Affairs had asked "whether the Bill endangered the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the nation" to which the AYUSH Ministry responded affirmatively. The framers of the Constitution had incorporated Article 254 (2) empowering the President to grant assent to Bills repugnant to central laws on Concurrent List matters. NEET has been consistently upheld by the Supreme Court of India too. The President is under no obligation to give assent, although the Bill reflects the collective will of Tamil Nadu's legislature: it was passed unanimously. True, NEET is neither foolproof nor an absolute measure of academic competency, but Tamil Nadu's legal options are limited. The judiciary is unlikely to settle the issue with any urgency. The State must prepare for a legal struggle, and in the interim, coach students to face NEET with confidence.

Dispelling concerns

Modi's visit to Colombo should help advance ties and resolve disputes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Sri Lanka, (April 4-6), his first after 2019, demonstrated, beyond optics, the close ties between the two countries. Colombo, under the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP)-led National People's Power (NPP) regime, is serious about improving relations with New Delhi. This was evident from the conferment of its highest honour for foreign leaders on Mr. Modi and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation, billed as the first of its kind in bilateral ties. The JVP's ascension to power, following Anura Kumara Dissanayake's victory in the presidential poll in September 2024, and the NPP's resounding parliamentary election victory two months later, gave room to the perception that there would be a strictly formal, if not cold, relationship with India, given the JVP's anti-India posture of the past. There was also apprehension that Colombo might not be sensitive to New Delhi's security concerns. However, to be fair to him, Mr. Dissanayake reiterated his country's long-standing position that Sri Lanka would not permit its territory to be used against India's security and regional stability. Mr. Modi captured the rationale behind the MoU by saying that "the security of both countries is interconnected and co-dependent". Even though the MoU may have formalised certain arrangements in the area of defence, bilaterally, it is up to the NPP regime to establish that Sri Lanka means business in defence cooperation. But still, Sri Lanka is sure to be conscious that an understanding in 1987 not to let Trincomalee or any other Sri Lankan port be used for military purposes by a third country against India has not helped dispel India's concerns.

On the vexatious fishermen's issue – one of importance to Tamil Nadu – it was a good sign that there were detailed discussions. But Mr. Modi's visit should trigger a full-fledged discussion between the fishing communities of the two countries, and one that is overseen by government officials. Recently, fishers on either side of the Palk Bay met and exchanged their views. If this meeting is to have some meaning, it should be followed up with another round of talks. A flexible approach will help create a lasting solution. Another significant outcome of the visit is that Tamil parties, in their meeting with Mr. Modi, conveyed the point that they recognised the significance of the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987 in pursuit of achieving a political settlement for the Tamils and sought India's "legitimate involvement". There has been criticism even in Sri Lanka that many of the parties had not fully supported the Accord, which paved the way for the establishment of provincial councils as a measure of devolution. New Delhi, which can provide liberal economic aid for the war-torn Northern and Eastern provinces, should play the role of a dispassionate observer and urge every stakeholder to pursue democratic means to arrive at a consensus.

Clean voter lists or the choice of Aadhaar linkage

Praveen Chakravarty

is Chairman, All India Professionals' Congress and Data Analytics for the Congress party

In its March 20, 2025 issue, *The Economist* lamented how "India is obsessed with giving its people unique IDs". It mocked how various arms of the Indian state announce new unique IDs nearly 'every month for everyone from doctors, teachers, athletes, judges, gig workers to even cows and buffaloes'.

The Economist got it half wrong. India is obsessed with IDs but not "unique" IDs. There is a profound and fundamental difference between the two. An ID can identify a person's eligibility for a certain role or function or a group, such as an ID to drive or to vote or to perform surgery. A unique ID identifies the individual, regardless of their role or function. It certifies that the person is who he or she claims to be. India's governance establishment often conflates and confuses between an "ID" and a "Unique ID", with some disastrous consequences – as the Election Commission of India (ECI) did recently.

In March this year, the ECI announced that it was going to embark on an exercise to 'link Voter ID with Aadhaar'. Voter ID (Electoral Photo Identity Card or EPIC) is an ID for the purposes of voting. Aadhaar is a Unique ID with no specific functional purpose. In simple terms, the ECI wants to convert its ID to a Unique ID.

The Maharashtra election as turning point

On September 18, 2008, under the leadership of then Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami, the ECI, in a letter to all the State Chief Electoral Officers, said that it was issuing an EPIC 'for the purposes of correct identification of voters' and that 'every EPIC is unique'. Seventeen years later, in announcing a mission to link EPIC with Aadhaar, the ECI has implicitly admitted that its EPIC was only an ID and not unique, as it had previously claimed.

Evidently, the ECI has not understood the difference between an ID and a Unique ID or has misled Indians for nearly two decades. The Maharashtra State election, in November 2024, was a wake-up call for the ECI.

There were roughly 40 lakh new voters registered in Maharashtra in just five months between the 2024 general election in April and the Assembly election in November. But in the previous full five-year period between the 2019 Assembly election and the 2024 general election in Maharashtra, only 32 lakh new voters were added. Did Maharashtra experience a sudden population explosion in five months? Obviously, this is illogical and mysterious.

> The Election Commission of India must pay heed to B.R Ambedkar's note of caution – that the 'sanctity of voter lists is the foundation of India's democracy'

Contrary to what many, including this daily, claimed, it is not the absolute number of 40 lakh new voters by itself that is mysteriously large, but the fact that it defies common sense that more new voters can be added in five months than in the previous five years. As one would expect, never before in India's seven-decade electoral history have more new voters been added in a few months than in previous five-year election cycles.

Expectedly, in similar past election cycles in all States, the number of new voters added in a few months was only a fraction of the total added in five-year periods.

It does not take Sherlock Holmes to deduce that the new voters enrolled in such large numbers in Maharashtra were either fake or duplicate. That is, the same person had many Voter IDs. This was seen in several constituencies, where thousands of voters with valid Voter IDs from another State were registered as new voters in Maharashtra.

Subsequently, in Bengal, it was pointed out that there were many voters with the same Voter ID number in multiple constituencies in Bengal as well as in other States. That is, one Voter ID number assigned to many people. So, neither was a Voter ID number unique to every voter nor was a voter unique to a Voter ID number. The ECI's claim in 2008, that every Voter ID number is unique has been a plain lie, wittingly or otherwise.

There is a catch

Now jolted, the ECI seemingly wishes to fix this by linking the Voter ID with the Aadhaar. With its biometric process, the Aadhaar can ensure that one person cannot have multiple Voter IDs. This is a step in the right direction. But it is more complex than what the ECI makes it out to be.

To ensure that the same person is not duplicated, the Aadhaar numbers of all one billion registered voters have to be linked to their Voter ID. Having only some voters linked to Aadhaar will make the entire exercise futile, since then there is no guarantee of uniqueness and non-duplicacy. So, cleaning and de-duplicating voter lists with Aadhaar is an all or none exercise and cannot be half done. It implies that to be an Indian voter, an Aadhaar is a must. That is, Aadhaar will be a necessary but not a sufficient condition for voting in India. But by law, Aadhaar cannot be mandatory for anyone and is only optional. In short, India needs clean, de-duplicated voter lists. But de-duplication is only possible with 100% Aadhaar linkage. And Aadhaar is not mandatory. This is the conundrum that the ECI faces.

I venture to posit that Babasaheb Ambedkar would have taken a utilitarian approach to this dilemma and argued that the benefits of de-duplicated Voter IDs outweigh the costs of 100% Aadhaar linkage. He had warned in the Constituent Assembly in 1949 that the 'sanctity of voter lists are the foundation of India's democracy'.

Ensure a guarantee under oath

Further, Aadhaar can not only solve the 'one person with many Voter IDs' problem but also eliminate the issue of 'one voter voting many times'. It is no secret that the archaic practice of inking a voter's finger using an indelible ink after voting is bypassed using chemicals that can remove the ink. The benefits of Aadhaar linking to Voter IDs are significant and obvious.

But, as the saying goes, in a liberal society, it is fine for a hundred guilty people to go unpunished even if it means punishing even one innocent person. All of this can work out only under the absolute guarantee that no single eligible Indian citizen will ever be denied the right to vote. And this guarantee from the ECI has to be under oath – not like its 'guarantee', in 2008, of Unique IDs.

India's aviation arbitration cases will still fly off overseas

G.S. Bajpai

is Vice Chancellor, National Law University Delhi

Garima Tiwari

is Associate Professor, National Law University Delhi

Shrawani Shagun

is Senior Research Fellow, National Law University Delhi

In 1934, India's skies were not its own. Under British colonial rule, the Aircraft Act of 1934 governed aviation in India, a law that was designed not to foster a burgeoning aviation sector but to ensure British control over airspace. The idea of ordinary Indians flying in commercial aircraft seemed like a far-fetched dream. Designed to control air traffic for military and administrative purposes, the Act soon showed that it was ill-equipped to handle rapid technological advancements, soaring passenger numbers, and the rise of private sector participation in aviation. Despite India's growing aviation industry over the decades, the legal framework has remained stuck in the past.

This legal inertia has led to significant challenges for India's aviation sector. Private and public airlines faced bureaucratic delays that hampered their growth. New ventures struggled to enter the market due to the cumbersome licensing process. Air traffic management was inefficient, and even fundamental issues such as passenger compensation for flight delays or cancellations were not adequately addressed. It became painfully clear that the old laws were no longer fit for a nation whose aviation sector had evolved far beyond what the Aircraft Act anticipated.

Fast forward to 2024, where India has moved beyond its colonial past. The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 marks a new era, introducing reforms and replacing the 1934 Act, and promising a future where Indian aviation can truly take flight. However, there is one issue that remains: Will India's new aviation reforms also help its arbitration system align with global norms? Or will commercial aviation disputes continue to move to Singapore, London and Paris?

A forward step but still incomplete

The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024 is a breath of fresh air for India's aviation industry. By streamlining licensing procedures and tackling the inefficiencies of air traffic management, it aims to position India as a global leader in aviation. Passengers also stand to benefit, with enhanced rights and compensation mechanisms for delays and cancellations.

However, despite these impressive reforms, there is one critical aspect that remains unaddressed: arbitration. While the Adhiniyam overhauls much of India's aviation infrastructure, it has done little to modernise the legal framework to resolve international disputes. So, with the lack of specialised aviation arbitration in India, will the country continue to lose aviation cases to global arbitration hubs?

> The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 remains incomplete without arbitration reform

India's current framework for commercial arbitration, governed by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996, does not address the unique needs of aviation disputes. These often involve specialised issues that range from technical matters to international treaties. India's courts and arbitration centres lack the expertise to handle such complex cases effectively without a dedicated aviation arbitration framework. This gap in expertise and specialisation means that aviation companies that deal with issues such as cross-border regulations, airline contracts, and aviation safety standards are unlikely to look to India as a preferred venue for dispute resolution.

India versus overseas centres

Despite establishing institutions such as the Delhi International Arbitration Centre and the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration, India has yet to make a significant mark on the global arbitration stage. The Singapore International Arbitration Centre currently handles around 90% of corporate arbitration cases involving Indian parties, a statistic that highlights India's failure to build the necessary institutional support for high-stakes arbitration. This lack of infrastructure for specialised sectors such as aviation is why its arbitration sector remains underdeveloped. Without a dedicated focus on aviation disputes, cases will continue to move abroad. The issue is not about laws alone but about the right people, the systems and the infrastructure to handle complex international disputes.

If India is serious about becoming a global leader in aviation, it must make a concerted effort to develop a specialised aviation arbitration framework. This would involve establishing dedicated institutions with panels of experts in aviation law, technology and international treaties. It is not enough to have a generic arbitration framework. Aviation disputes require a deep understanding of the sector's unique challenges.

India should also look to jurisdictions such as Singapore and the United Kingdom, which have built strong and specialised arbitration systems catering to the aviation sector. India needs to adopt a similar approach by creating specialised arbitration panels, creating incentives for private sector involvement and focusing on building expertise in aviation law. Law schools can play an important role in this.

This arbitration exodus is a procedural economic and policy failure that affects India's global standing. Every case that moves abroad means lost revenue for Indian arbitrators, law firms and legal institutions. More importantly, it sends a troubling signal to foreign investors and aviation companies – that India lacks the confidence and the infrastructure to handle high-stakes disputes. However, with a robust aviation arbitration system, India could attract more aviation businesses, increasing investments, economic growth and having a more substantial global aviation presence.

India must ensure neutrality in arbitrator appointments. The government should appoint arbitrators only through mutual agreement or by an independent arbitration body. This is standard practice in leading arbitration hubs, and India must follow suit if it wants to be taken seriously. Further, India must reduce judicial and executive interference in arbitration. Indian arbitration awards often get dragged into long court battles. A stable and predictable legal environment is essential if India wants to attract more arbitration cases.

Key areas to focus on

The path forward is clear: India must prioritise neutrality, transparency, and institutional strength. It must align itself with the best global practices and eliminate provisions that create a perception of bias. The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024 is a landmark step but remains incomplete without arbitration reform. The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 provides a general framework, but aviation disputes demand specialised expertise.

Unless India builds a dedicated aviation arbitration ecosystem with expert arbitrators, specialised institutions, and global credibility, disputes will keep flying off abroad, and investments may follow suit. The time for reform is now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A 'reconnect'

The election of M.A. Baby as the new General Secretary of the CPI(M) party marks a new chapter in the annals of the party's history. The challenges before the general secretary, who has inherited a crown of thorns, are manifold. The biggest failure of the Left movement in India has been its inability to adapt itself to changing times. It needs to initiate mass mobilisation programmes and address the bread and butter issues affecting the common man.

B. Suresh Kumar,
Coimbatore

A prominent Left leader's assertion that 'Only [the] Left can counter the neo fascism of Hindutva forces' (April 3), sounds great on paper. But the track record of the Left parties does not inspire confidence in the public. Without mass support, they have almost always piggybacked on an alliance in every Lok Sabha election to win a few seats. They would then talk of extending outside support, on the basis of a 'common minimum programme', aimed at uplifting the poor and protecting the labour — no doubt lofty ideals. And then pressure the government at every step, preventing it from closing even a single, chronically sick, loss-making public sector unit. During the first term of the United Progressive Alliance, one saw the Left withdrawing support, citing India signing the civil nuclear agreement with the U.S., which was to its obvious advantage.

V. Jayaraman,
Chennai

RBI and its services

According to the Reserve Bank of India, 98.21% of the ₹2,000 notes have been returned to it and ₹6,366 crore worth of such notes are left with the public now. That said, the central bank must now consider 'restoring' its erstwhile services relating to the exchanging of soiled/mutilated of various denominations apart from issuing fresh currency notes. The RBI must observe the relevant provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 by urgently opening its 'closed doors' with respect to some services.

Kumar Gupt,
Panchkula, Haryana

Complete health

World Health Day may have passed but health in general does not only mean the absence of diseases or treatment for diseases. 'Health is a status of five dimensions — physical, mental, social, vocational and spiritual well-being and not merely the absence of diseases or infirmity'. So, every person needs to analyse their state in terms of these five health dimensions.

Dr. Gitanjali Sharma,
Chennai

Manoj Kumar

Manoj Kumar's debut 1967 Hindi film, *Upkar*, as a director, was an off-shoot to the 1965 India-Pakistan war. The ever-green song, 'Mere Desh ki Dharti', by Mahendra Kapoor won a national award and topped the listeners' choice in Vividh Bharathi in the late 1960s and 1970s. Such films which stirred a nationalist fervour are rare now. It was said that then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Sastri was instrumental in making a film based on the 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' slogan. It was remade in Telugu, as *Padipantalu,* in 1976.

A.V. Narayanan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Shaping a future-ready workforce

P. John J. Kennedy

Former Professor and Dean, Christ University, Bengaluru

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 and QS's World Future Skills Index contain critical insights into the state of India's workforce and its preparedness for the future. They offer a roadmap for the government and universities to address the pressing challenges and opportunities in shaping a future-ready workforce. Their findings accentuate the urgency of aligning educational strategies with the rapidly evolving demands of the global economy.

The findings

The Future of Jobs Report highlights the significant forces driving global labour market changes by 2030. Among these, technological advancements, demographic shifts, geo-economic fragmentation, economic uncertainties, and the green transition stand out. Technological change and digital access are anticipated to play a crucial role, with 60% of employers identifying them as major drivers. At the same time, 50% of employers expect economic factors, such as job displacement, to reshape industries. Climate change mitigation is seen as a dual force, both creating jobs in renewable energy and environmental fields and requiring adaptations to business models due to geopolitical tensions. These trends point to a dynamic labour market characterised by job creation (170 million new jobs are projected) and job displacement (92 million roles could become obsolete).

In response to these shifts, employers have prioritised workforce training, wage increases, and employee well-being. Notably, 59 out of every 100 workers will require training in crucial skills such as analytical thinking, resilience, and technological literacy. Emerging roles such as Big Data specialists and AI engineers are expected to see substantial growth, highlighting the need for a workforce equipped with advanced technical and cognitive skills. The emphasis on upskilling indicates that educational institutions must proactively prepare students for a competitive job market. Equally important is the integration of soft skills, such as emotional intelligence, adaptability, and leadership, into professional development programmes. Employers are increasingly valuing these attributes as critical for navigating dynamic work environments.

The QS World Future Skills Index complements these findings. Ranking second globally in terms of preparedness for AI and green skills, India demonstrates considerable potential. However, the report reveals stark gaps in workforce skills, particularly on supply-side indicators. While India excels in its ability to identify and recruit for future-focused skills, as evidenced by its 99.1 score in the 'Future of Work' parameter, its performance in 'Skills Fit' – the ability of the workforce to meet these demands – lags significantly, with the country scoring just 59.1. The report also identifies deficiencies in fostering entrepreneurial and innovative mindsets, with India's overall ranking in 'Academic Readiness' placing it at a modest 26th position. Further, India's performance in future-oriented innovation and sustainability is alarmingly low, a mere 15.6 out of 100. Additionally, India's limited investment in research and development further worsens the issue, hindering its ability to compete globally in areas such as renewable energy technologies and climate-friendly innovations.

The findings of the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 and the QS's World Future Skills Index underline the urgency of aligning educational strategies with the evolving demands of the global economy

An opportunity

The findings emphasise a transformative opportunity for India to align its education system with global trends and workforce demands. To bridge the skill gaps identified, educational institutions and governments must adopt a multi-pronged approach that addresses curriculum innovation, faculty capacity, infrastructure, and equitable access while fostering robust collaboration among academia, industry, and policymakers. The emphasis on creativity, critical thinking, resilience, problem-solving, and entrepreneurial skills must become central to higher education. Universities must embed these competencies into the curriculum through interdisciplinary courses, experiential learning modules, and problem-based learning approaches. Initiatives such as hackathons, startup incubators, and design-thinking workshops should become integral to the academic framework to nurture innovation and adaptability.

A green curriculum is imperative. Institutions could establish specialised centres for sustainability research, offer courses on green technologies and practices, and encourage student-led community initiatives that address local environmental issues. Collaboration with the private sector is critical for bridging the education-industry gap. Higher education institutions need to form robust partnerships with industries to co-create curricula, offer internships, and ensure that students graduate with job-ready skills. Industry players can contribute by funding skill development centres, mentoring students, and providing real-time insights into market needs.

Faculty development is another area for reform. Universities must implement comprehensive training programmes that include workshops, certifications, and global exchange opportunities.

The government must spearhead systemic reforms by increasing skill development, research, and innovation investments. A specific focus on building digital infrastructure in rural and semi-urban areas will reduce the urban-rural divide.

India's higher education system must undergo a paradigm shift to remain agile and future-focused, while the government must foster an enabling policy environment.

Raking up the caste card in West Bengal

Caste is increasingly becoming crucial to people's identity and the State's politics

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
shivsahay.s@thehindu.co.in

Nearly three weeks before five Dalits entered a Shiva temple at Purba Bardhaman district under police protection, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made a statement about her caste in the State Assembly that largely went unnoticed. On February 18, while participating in a debate in the Assembly, she emphasised that she was not only a "proud Hindu, but also the daughter of a Brahmin family".

The emphasis that the Trinamool Congress chairperson placed on her caste assumes significance in the wake of recent developments. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership has been urging all Hindus to unite against the Trinamool before the 2026 Assembly elections. The party has coined a new slogan, "*Hindu Hindu bhai bhai, 2026 BJP Chai* (All Hindus must unite: In 2026 we want BJP)".

The Leader of the Opposition, Suvendu Adhikari, who has been emphasising the unity of all Hindus irrespective of caste, has repeatedly said that if the BJP manages to secure 5% more Hindu votes, it would win the 2026 Assembly polls. Mr. Adhikari and other State BJP leaders have been reaching out to upper caste Hindus describing them as 'Sanatani' (those who follow the eternal Dharma) and alleging attacks on their culture because of the Trinamool's tilt towards its minority vote bank. But they are also leaving no stone unturned to reach out to Dalits, particularly Matuas.

On March 27, for instance, Mr. Adhikari walked on foot to the headquarters of the Matua

sect at Thakurnagar in North 24 Parganas for the annual festival of the sect. He hailed the founding fathers of the Matua sect for "saving Hindus from being converted to Islam".

Ms. Banerjee has so far countered the Hindutva push of the BJP by claiming to be a "proud Hindu", organising Durga Pujas, and restoring and constructing temples. But she doesn't perceive this as being sufficient given that she has finally taken refuge in her caste to prevent any further polarisation of Hindu votes towards the BJP. This is why for the first time Ms. Banerjee has emphasised that though she champions the cause of minorities and Dalits, she hails from a Brahmin family, whose members organise pujas at home. Mr. Adhikari, who, like the Chief Minister, belongs to an upper caste and wears his caste identity on his sleeve, insists that "he will first say that he is Sanatani Hindu and then refer to his caste". Despite the State's population comprising 23.5% Scheduled Castes, 16% Other Backward Classes, 5.8% Scheduled Tribes, and 27% minorities, all the Chief Ministers of the State and the majority of the Cabinet ministers have come from upper castes.

This flaunting of caste identity is new to West Bengal politics. Speaking about one's caste was not considered to be politically prudent until a few years ago. This public taboo against speaking about caste has led to the utopian idea of 'castelessness' in West Bengal. With the Bengali Hindu Bhadralok, who mostly comprise three traditional upper castes – Brahmin, Kayastha, and Baidya – dominating popular culture, arts, and literature in the State, a section of the urban elite has deluded itself into believing that caste is not a reality. Decades of Communist rule in the State also made the people believe that inequality stems from class and not caste.

However, things started changing with groups such as the Matuas in south Bengal, Rajbanshis in north Bengal, and Kurmis in the Jangalmahal region affirming their caste identity. These marginalised groups, which are demanding a greater say in political decision-making, have redrawn the discussions on caste in the State.

Within 10 days after the incident at the temple in Purba Bardhaman, the Calcutta High Court on March 21 had to intervene in a similar situation, where Dalits were not allowed inside a temple premises. Justice Tirthankar Ghosh ordered the district judge of Nadia to direct the Superintendent of Police to deploy sufficient number of police personnel to ensure that a group of Dalits, who had approached the Court, be allowed inside a temple for some rituals.

Therefore, neither the Chief Minister's emphasis on her caste nor the incident at the temple are isolated incidents that can be brushed under the carpet. From a society that hesitated to acknowledge the presence of caste, West Bengal is witnessing a new phenomenon where caste is increasingly becoming crucial to people's identity and the State's politics.

How the police view custodial torture in India

The data reveals an acceptance of coercive tactics ranging from verbal abuse and threats to slapping and third-degree methods even for minor offences

DATA POINT

Vibha Attri & Jyoti Mishra

In recent years, concerns over police brutality and custodial torture have intensified, fuelling debates about justice, accountability, and human rights. The findings from a recent study on the 'Status of Policing in India Report' conducted by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in collaboration with Common Cause shed light on this grim reality. The study, which analysed responses from 8,276 police personnel across 82 locations in 17 States including Delhi, provides troubling insights into the culture of abuse behind closed doors.

When asked if it is acceptable for the police to use violence against suspects of serious offences for the greater good of society, nearly two out of three police personnel (63%) agreed. Of them, 22% strongly agreed and 41% moderately agreed. Just 35% of the officers opposed the idea **(Table 1)**. Support for violence against suspected serious offenders remained consistent across ranks.

When asked about torture, a significant number of police personnel expressed strong support for its use in interrogations across various crime categories. The highest support was for cases related to national security, such as terrorism, with 42% strongly backing torture. Over a third (34%) also strongly supported its use in cases of rape, sexual assault, and serious violent crimes such as murder **(Table 2)**. Additionally, 28% strongly agreed that torture must be used against history sheeters.

Police personnel were also asked how justified is the use of certain coercive and violent acts towards the accused so that criminal cases can be solved. The data reveals a troubling acceptance of coercive tactics, ranging from verbal abuse and threats to slapping and third-degree methods. Nearly half (49%) said that verbally abusing or threatening suspects in cases of minor offences such as theft is justified, with 32% endorsing slapping and 9% even supporting the use of third-degree methods **(Table 3)**. Support for such violent methods increased dramatically in cases of serious crimes. Three in ten (30%) police personnel justified third-degree methods in cases such as rape and murder, while half (50%) approved of slapping suspects and more than half (55%) endorsed verbal abuse or threats.

Threats and slapping or using light force are common. About a quarter (26%) of police personnel said that suspects are threatened often, while 34% said that this happens sometimes. Similarly, nearly two in 10 (18%) said that slapping or using light force is common, with 28% saying it happens occasionally **(Table 4)**.

Regarding third-degree methods, one in 10 police personnel admitted that such extreme violence occurs often, and 16% said it happens sometimes. Additionally, one in three respondents reported that investigating officers frequently use coercive tactics.

The findings reveal that nearly four in 10 police personnel believe that reporting of custodial torture should be mandatory, while a similar proportion supported it being mandatory in some cases. Around one in 10 felt it should never be mandatory **(Table 5)**. While a majority supported mandatory reporting, the fact that the largest group favoured it only 'sometimes' suggests a level of hesitation or conditional acceptance. The data also shows that officers at the police station level favour mandatory reporting more than their senior counterparts.

When asked if junior police personnel would feel comfortable filing a complaint against their seniors for the use of violence, provided legal protection, over four in 10 of police respondents strongly agreed, while 36% agreed moderately **(Table 6)**.

Brutality behind bars

Data for the tables were sourced from Lokniti-CSDS. Vibha Attri & Jyoti Mishra are Research Associates at Lokniti-CSDS

Table 1: Police violence: A justified tool for the greater good

For the greater good of the society, it is alright for the police to be violent towards suspects of serious offences	%
Fully agree	22
Somewhat agree	41
Somewhat disagree	13
Fully disagree	22

Table 2: Justifying violence: The alarming police support for torture

Crime categories	Is torture necessary and acceptable to gain information in the following kinds of cases?			
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Crimes against national security-such as terrorism	42	26	12	17
Rape or sexual assault cases	34	30	15	20
Serious violent crimes like murder	34	30	13	21
Cases against history-sheeters	28	29	16	22
Major theft cases	20	35	15	27

Table 3: The case for third-degree methods

Nature of offence	Are the following methods justified? ('Yes' responses only)		
	Verbal abuse or threats	Actions like slapping, etc.	Third-degree methods
Towards the accused while investigating petty offences like theft	49	32	9
Towards the accused while investigating serious criminal cases like rape and murder	55	50	30

Table 4: How often do investigating officers use forceful tactics?

	Many times	Sometimes	Once or twice	Never
Threats	26	34	14	25
Slapping/using light force (pushing, etc.)	18	28	19	33
Using third-degree (beating on soles, applying red chilli powder to body parts, suspending the body)	11	16	14	52
Making the person sit in 'murga' position	9	24	18	46
Keeping a person hungry and thirsty for some time	7	16	14	59

Table 5: Police views on mandatory reporting of torture

	Should it be mandatory for police personnel witnessing torture by other police personnel to report it?		
	Yes, always	Yes, sometimes	Never
Overall	39	41	9
Constabulary ranks	36	42	9
Upper subordinate ranks	42	40	10
IPS level ranks	23	58	14

Table 6: Would legal protection encourage police to report violence?

	If junior police personnel have legal protection when they complain against seniors, would you feel comfortable filing a complaint against seniors for use of violence?		
	Yes, always	Yes, sometimes	Never
Overall	44	36	8
Constabulary ranks	41	36	9
Upper subordinate ranks	50	36	7
IPS level ranks	35	54	5

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 8, 1975

Direct U.S. intervention in Vietnam under study

Jakarta, April 7: Direct American military intervention in Vietnam is under active discussion now, General George Brown, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the press here to-day.

After a 45-minute consultation with President Suharto, General Brown said "direct American military intervention in Vietnam is obviously one of the options."

"I could not even guess what the possibilities are, but I am sure it is under active discussion," he added.

"As you know, there are a great number of people in the United States who would not favour that intervention. After all, we lost some 50,000 soldiers in Vietnam and we have incurred huge expenditures for the training of the South Vietnamese military."

"We have a law prohibiting the use of military forces without congressional approval, especially reinitiation of military action in Vietnam and Cambodia," he stressed.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. James Schlesinger, yesterday indicated that a report to President Ford on the military situation in South Vietnam warned that the Saigon forces would be defeated without more U.S. military aid.

The report, given to the President on Saturday by General Frederick Weyand, the Army Chief of Staff, after a visit to South Vietnam, was described by Mr. Schlesinger as "realistic".

Interviewed on the CBS "Face the nation" television programme, Mr. Schlesinger declined to go into the substance of General Weyand's assessment.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 8, 1925

Royal geographical society

London, April 7: At a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, the President announced that the King had approved the award of royal medals as follows: The Founder's Medal to Brigadier-General Bruce for his lifelong geographical work in connection with his explorations in the Himalayas which culminated in his leadership of the Everest expeditions and the Patron's Medal to Mr. A.T. Wollaston for his explorations in Dutch New Guinea, Central Africa and many other parts of the world.

From Page One

Indian indices plunge as trade war fears spread

Japan's Nikkei 225 declined as much as 8.8%, plummeting to a near one-and-half year low at 30,792.94 during trade on Monday. This was before it managed to pare some losses to close 7.8% lower at 31,136.58.

To put Monday's fall in perspective, this is not among the top five falls seen in the Indian stock market. While COVID-19 related fall of 13.2% in March 2020 was the biggest ever, the fall that was triggered by the Harshad Mehta scam in April 1992 was the second biggest at 12.7%.

In May 2004, the Sensex fell 11.1% following the defeat of the NDA in the Lok Sabha election. The market fell 7.4% in January 2008, reacting to the Global Financial Crisis, and in March 2002, it had tanked 4.13% when the Ketan Parekh scam broke out. Devarsh Vakil, head, Prime Research, HDFC Securities, said, "The benchmark Nifty index experienced exceptional volatility on Monday, opening with a dramatic 5% gap down due to negative global cues –marking the steepest opening decline since March 23, 2020."

Seoul's benchmark KOSPI index also found itself at a 17-month low during the day, closing 5.57% lower at 2,328.20. In fact, the two indices briefly halted trading in stock futures by inducing circuit breakers to stabilise persisting volatility.

Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng Index registered its steepest single-day decline since the Asian financial crisis of 1997. It closed 13.22% lower at 19,828.30.

Meanwhile, China, which has been the first major economy to impose retaliatory sanctions, also found its markets mired in uncertainty. Shanghai Composite Index also closed 7.34% lower at 3,096.58. This marks its worst day in five years.

Early hours in the U.S.

In the early hours across the Atlantic, however, it nearly appeared that the grim mood would not be replicated. This was after media reports held that the Trump administration was considering a ninety-day tariff pause. The downturn resumed after White House denied it. At 11.20 a.m. ET, the tech-heavy NASDAQ Composite Index had lost 310.03 points to find itself 1.99% lower at 15,277.76, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average had slipped 2.7% to 37,279.25. The S&P 500 was down 0.31% at 5,058.37 after having shed 15.71 points.

(With inputs from Saptaparno Ghosh and agencies)

Centre raises LPG price by ₹50 per cylinder

The Union Minister denied that the government was pushing against a fuel price decrease against the backdrop of lower crude prices. In fact, he said, fuel prices may still decrease if current trends hold. He cited differences in petrol prices between "BJP States" and "non-BJP States", with the latter charging higher State levies. "The difference between Itanagar and Chennai is ₹9.93," Mr. Puri said, referring to LPG retail prices.

India imports more than 60% of its domestic LPG consumption, Ministry sources said. "Prices of LPG in the country are linked to its price in the international market. Government continues to modulate the effective price to consumer for domestic LPG ... While the average Saudi Contract Price [international benchmark for LPG pricing] rose by 63% [from $385 per tonne in July 2023 to $629 per tonne in February 2025], the effective price for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana [PMUY] consumers for domestic LPG was reduced by 44% [from ₹903 in August 2023 to ₹503 in February 2025]."

Mumbai HC to hear Kamra's plea today

Justice Sunder Mohan of the Madras High Court passed the orders for extension of protection from arrest on Monday after advocate V. Suresh, assisted by S. Tanvi, told the court that he had served private notice on the Khar police in Mumbai, as ordered by the court on March 28, while granting interim anticipatory bail to his client. The judge directed the Registry to ascertain if the court notice had also been served and to list the matter again on April 17.

Mr. Suresh on Monday told the Madras High Court that after the grant of the interim inter-State anticipatory bail in one case, the Khar police had registered three other cases against the comedian, disturbed his aged parents by going to their Mumbai residence though he had been living in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu since 2021, and also summoned the spectators of the comedy show for inquiry.

However, not wanting to go into the merits of the case, the judge pointed out he had granted an interim relief only until the petitioner could approach the Bombay High Court and obtain a regular anticipatory bail. When he wanted to know whether steps had been taken to file a petition in the Bombay High Court, Mr. Suresh replied in the affirmative. Thereafter, the judge directed the Madras High Court Registry to find out whether court notice on the plea for inter State anticipatory bail had been served on the Khar police and print their name in the cause list, if the notice had been served, on April 17. He made it clear that the interim relief granted on March 28 would continue till the next date of hearing of the present plea.

(With inputs from Purnima Sah in Mumbai)

Waqf Act petitions will be listed for hearing in due course: CJI

DMK says the Act infringes upon and prejudices the rights of Muslims in Tamil Nadu and across the country; IUML says the amendments impose arbitrary restrictions, enhance state control, and deviate from the religious essence of Waqf

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Monday said petitions challenging the constitutionality of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, would be listed for hearing in due course.

The Chief Justice said the court followed a system for examining written requests or emails to list cases urgently. He would take a call and assign the cases to the Benches.

"This afternoon, they (written requests/emails) will be placed before me. I will see... Why do you mention it when there is a system already in place?" Chief Justice Khanna asked senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for the petitioners.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi and advocate Zulfiker Ali, for Samastha Kerala Jamaithul Ulema, and advocate Nizam Pasha, representing All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen chief and MP Asaduddin Owaisi, also highlighted the urgency to list the challenge for an early hearing.

Rising rage: People stage protest against the Waqf Act, 2025, at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Fresh petitions challenging the 2025 Act continue to pour into the Supreme Court, especially after the law received the Presidential assent.

DMK's contention

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), through its Deputy General Secretary A. Raja, MP and Member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Waqf Bill, has contended that the Act infringes upon and prejudices the rights of about 50 lakh Muslims in Tamil Nadu and 20 crore Muslims in other parts of the country.

The petition, settled by senior advocate P. Wilson, noted that the DMK government in Tamil Nadu had passed a resolution on March 27 in the Legislative Assembly urging the Union government to withdraw the Waqf Act.

The Indian Union Muslim League, in its petition filed on Monday, said the amendments introduced provisions which fundamentally alter the governance, creation, and protection of Waqf properties – Islamic endowments dedicated perpetually to Allah for religious and charitable purposes. "These amendments impose arbitrary restrictions, enhance state control, and deviate from the religious essence of Waqf, violating Articles 14, 15, 25, and 26 of the Constitution," the petition, represented by advocates Haris Beeran and Usman Ghani Khan, said.

"The amendments undermine property rights protected under Article 300A. By expanding state control over Waqf assets, limiting the ability of individuals to dedicate property for religious purposes, and subjecting Waqf properties to heightened scrutiny, the Act goes against the Supreme Court's judgment that transferring control of religious property to secular authorities is an infringement of religious and property rights," the petitions have contended.

They have submitted that the provisions of the law discriminate against Muslims by imposing restrictions that were not part of the governance of other religious endowments.

The Act violated Article 14 (right to equality), a basic feature of the Constitution, Lok Sabha member Mohammed Jawed, represented by advocate Anas Tanwir, has argued. The provisions, he submitted, introduced "restrictions on the creation of Waqfs based on the duration of one's religious practice". Such a limitation was unfounded in Islamic law, custom, or precedent and infringes upon the fundamental right to profess and practice religion under Article 25, the petitioners have said.

The petitions highlighted that amendments omitted the concept of "Waqf by User" affirmed by the Supreme Court itself as a property which would attain the status of Waqf through its long-standing religious use.

Further, an amendment to the composition of the Waqf Board and the Central Waqf Council has mandated the inclusion of non-Muslim members in Waqf administrative bodies. The petitioners have said this was an unwarranted interference in religious governance.

Foreign funds must be used within four years: Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry said on Monday that foreign funds obtained through the prior permission route would be valid only for four years. The Ministry said not adhering to the time limit would be a violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, and necessary punitive actions could be taken.

In a communication to all banks, it said that for a prior permission application, "the validity period for receiving foreign contribution shall be three years from the date of approval of the application" and the period for "utilising the foreign contribution shall be four years from the date of approval". "Further, in respect of prior permission applications which have already been approved and where the remaining period of the approved project/ activity in the prior permission is more than three years, the above time limit shall be reckoned from the date of issue of this order instead of the date of approval of the application," the Ministry said.

Days after Modi and Yunus met, Dhaka sends High Commissioner to Delhi

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Days after a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok, Dhaka has sent its new High Commissioner to India. Riaz Hamidullah, a 1995-batch officer of the Bangladesh Foreign Service, arrived here on Monday to take charge as the new High Commissioner of Bangladesh, sources have confirmed.

Mr. Hamidullah was appointed the High Commissioner of Bangladesh in India in February but his arrival was delayed as India-Bangladesh relations had taken a nosedive. His arrival is therefore being viewed as a positive outcome of the meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Yunus in Bangkok.

Riaz Hamidullah

He has served as the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka and the Netherlands

The previous High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Mustafizur Rahman, who was appointed during Sheikh Hasina's tenure, served till October 2024 and the post has been vacant ever since.

An alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University and Dhaka University, Mr. Hamidullah was till recently Secretary (West) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in Dhaka. Prior to that, he also served briefly as the Foreign Secretary incharge. He has served as the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka and the Netherlands.

Mr. Hamidullah has previously served as Director-General of the Europe and the European Union Wing, and the Multilateral Economic Affairs Wing at MoFA, Dhaka.

He is known for his experience in SAARC-related affairs as he had been posted as Director at the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu and was briefly posted in the Bangladesh High Commission here.

Curfew in Manipur's Lilong after mob torches house of BJP leader over Waqf law

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The authorities in Manipur's Thoubal district imposed an indefinite curfew in areas under the Lilong Assembly constituency on Monday, a day after an incident of arson over the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Thoubal is in the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley, and Pangals, or Manipuri Muslims, are a majority in Lilong.

A. Subhash Singh, Thoubal's District Magistrate, said the curfew was promulgated indefinitely under Section 63 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita in the entire constituency following a report from the district's Superintendent of Police.

The report said a mob of more than 7,000 people, armed with sticks and stones, stormed into the house of Mohammed Asker Ali of the Lilong Sambrukhong Mamel area, before setting it ablaze on Sunday night. Mr. Ali is the president of the Manipur unit of the BJP Minority Morcha. He had expressed his support for the Waqf Bill on social media, triggering outrage among many in Lilong.

A view of the charred remains at the residence of Manipur BJP Minority Morcha president Mohammed Askar Ali, on Monday. ANI

"The situation is sensitive in and around the Lilong constituency, and the likelihood of further disturbance could pose a risk to peace and public tranquillity in the area," a district official said.

Various parts of the Imphal Valley witnessed protests against the Waqf Bill on Sunday. Hundreds of people organised a rally and disrupted traffic on some roads. The agitators clashed with security forces in some areas.

Electronic surveillance system will cover entire Pak. border, says Shah

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said two models of an electronic surveillance system capable of detecting infiltrators and tunnels were being tested along the Jammu border.

The technology is likely to be deployed along the entire Pakistan border in four years, the Minister said during an interaction with Border Security Force (BSF) personnel at Kathua in Jammu.

He said terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir had been curbed but not "completely eliminated".

Mr. Shah visited the BSF outpost 'Vinay' in Kathua, around 30 km from the forested area where a group of freshly infiltrated terrorists killed four policemen on March 27. Two terrorists were killed in the encounter, while at least three are absconding as search operation continues.

Amit Shah during a visit to a forward post of the BSF along the India-Pakistan border in Kathua district on Monday. PTI

Since 2021, more than 30 terrorist-related incidents have been reported from the Jammu region. Mr. Shah met the families of policemen killed by militants and handed over appointment letters to nine nominees on compassionate grounds.

"After the installation of the technology, soldiers will find it much easier to receive information and respond immediately to any actions by the enemy. Several experiments have been conducted to identify infiltration and to detect and destroy tunnels, using technology. Soon the security forces deployed on the Pakistan and Bangladesh border will be fully equipped with technical assistance. The Modi government has no shortage of budget in the three areas of ensuring minimal casualties, reducing hardships through facilities, and supporting vigilance with technology," Mr. Shah said.

"Over 26 initiatives related to technology are currently being tested, including anti-drone technology, tunnel identification technology, and electronic surveillance. Some results from these tests could be achieved by next March," he said.

U.S. Supreme Court denies Rana's plea against extradition

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK

The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana's appeal seeking a stay on his extradition to India, moving him closer to being handed over to Indian authorities to face justice.

Rana, 64, a Canadian national of Pakistani origin, is currently lodged at a metropolitan detention centre in Los Angeles.

Rana had submitted an 'Emergency Application For Stay Pending Litigation of Petition For Writ of Habeas Corpus' on February 27, with Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and Circuit Justice for the Ninth Circuit Elena Kagan.

Tahawwur Rana

Kagan had denied the application last month.

Rana had then renewed his 'Emergency Application for Stay Pending Litigation of Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus previously addressed to Justice Kagan', and requested that the application be directed to U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts. A notice on the Supreme Court website on Monday said, "Application denied by the Court."

Naveen says will look into BJD voting on Waqf Bill

The Hindu Bureuu
BHUBANESWAR

Reiterating that the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is a secular party which had not hesitated to "break a government" for its principles in the past, former Chief Minister and party president Naveen Patnaik on Monday said he would look into the issue of split voting by BJD MPs in the Rajya Sabha on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Mr. Patnaik's statement came in the wake of a huge backlash within the party, following its "decision" to leave voting by MPs in the Rajya Sabha to individual conscience .

BJD Rajya Sabha member Muzibulla Khan, who had voted against the Bill, led a delegation of the Muslim community to 'Naveen Niwas', Mr. Patnaik's residence.

Most members of the delegation were agitated, and sought answers from the former Chief Minister on why the BJD had opted for such an approach to the Waqf Bill.

Modi, Trump harmed economies, Congress says on market rout

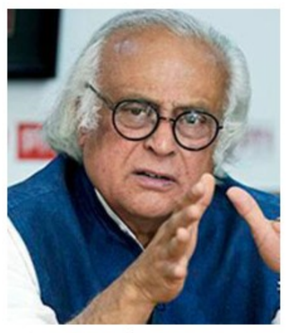
Reality is biting back and the Prime Minister is nowhere to be seen, says Rahul; party says India has to build resilient, production-based economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With the stock market reporting the largest single-day decline in 10 months on Monday, the Congress hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him and U.S. President Donald Trump of giving their respective economies "self-inflicted wounds".

Mirroring a sharp fall in global equities in a fallout of the U.S. President's tariff hikes and retaliation from China, the Sensex and Nifty crashed over 5%.

Questioning the government's silence on the hike in tariff imposed on Indian exports to U.S. by the Trump administration, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said in a post on the social media platform


Jairam Ramesh

X that India had to build a "resilient", "production-based economy" that worked for all Indians. "Trump has blown the lid off the illusion. Reality is biting back. PM Modi is nowhere to be seen," he said.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said, "It is no wonder that Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump describe themselves as good friends. Both are experts in giving their economies self-inflicted wounds. November 8, 2016 was demonetisation. April 2, 2025 was the bizarre reciprocal tariffs. Markets are reacting predictably in a "tariffying" manner," Mr. Ramesh said.

'Downward spiral'

Senior Congress leader Supriya Shrinate said the markets lost ₹19 lakh crore in the first five minutes, hitting small investors. Questioning the government's silence over the Trump government's tariff hike, Ms. Shrinate said it would further push the Indian economy into a downward spiral and take away jobs. "The EU, China, Japan, Britain, Spain, Brazil, Canada, Australia have all openly opposed the tariff hikes. But it is funny that Modi*ji* has not uttered a word," she said in a statement.

Ahmedabad AICC session to focus on empowering district-level units

Sandeep Phukan
AHMEDABAD

From celebrating the centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi's presidency of the party to commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the two-day Ahmedabad session of the All India Congress Committee will seek to underline the party's legacy in Gujarat.

Ahead of the meeting on April 8 and 9, Congress leader Pawan Khera said every section of society, be it the middle class, Dalits, tribal people or minorities, was "feeling cheated under BJP rule and the entire country is looking towards the Congress with hope".

"While people are looking at the Congress, we are looking at Gujarat because this State, the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel, had always shown us the way in difficult times. That is why our leadership has chosen Gujarat to hold the Congress Working Committee (CWC) and AICC session. We are sure Gujarat will show us the way forward," said Mr. Khera, who heads the party's media and publicity wing. He said that despite slogans such as "Congress-*mukt* Bharat" and attempts to eliminate it from the political map, the party continued to be "the voice of the citizens, not just a political party".

Gearing up: Preparations under way in Ahmedabad on Monday for the All India Congress Committee session. PTI

Gujarat Congress chief Shaktisinh Gohil said the AICC session was being held in Gujarat after 64 years. "The last one was held at Bhavnagar in 1961," he said. Organisational restructuring with a focus on empowering the district-level leadership will be among the key focus areas in the meet. The party will empower District Congress Committees (DCCs) in decision-making, including having a say in selection of candidates for elections, outlining responsibilities for booth-level management and creating additional functional units (mandal committees) between district- and block-level units.

Political affairs panel

Every DCC will have a political affairs committee that can formulate the party's response to important national political developments as well as those pertaining to their State, a party insider said.

The structural changes will include the DCCs leading the ideological fight against the BJP and countering any "polarising narrative" at the ground level, besides raising funds for the party and media and social media campaigns.

Soon after the session, Gujarat will be the starting point for the Congress to usher in the changes, aimed at empowering the organisation at the grass roots level. On Tuesday, an extended CWC will meet at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial to approve the draft resolutions for the session and, a day later, the AICC session will take place, with 1,725 elected AICC members and co-opted members participating.

The session themed "Nyaypath: Sankalp, Samarpan and Sangharsh" will be held on the banks of the Sabarmati between Sabarmati Ashram and Kochrab Ashram. Multiple resolutions are expected on Wednesday. A separate resolution could be there on Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel, indicated a party source.

CPI(M) disapproves of ED action on makers of Malayalam film

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

M.A. Baby

Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary M.A. Baby on Monday disapproved of the political targeting of the makers of a recently released Malayalam film, *Empuraan*.

"In Chennai and in parts of Kerala, the Enforcement Directorate has conducted aggressive raids in connection with a recently released Malayalam film, *Empuraan*. The film was neither political nor did it propagate Communist ideologies, but it just depicted the religious pogrom which happened in Gujarat in 2002. The film [makers] is being threatened even when it stars popular actors," he said at an event to garland the statues of party leaders P. Ramamurti and 'Tyagi' Balu in Madurai.

Mr. Baby accused the Narendra Modi government of carrying out "neo-fascist attacks against democratic rights". The action against the film was just one example of the broader authoritarian tactics employed by the ruling government, which the CPI (M) has vowed to resist, he said. During the 24th party congress, which concluded in Madurai on Sunday, Mr. Baby had announced that the party would unite all sections of society to fight against the "rising fascist forces", which, he claimed, were led by Mr. Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.

The congress also called for an expanded political front to challenge these forces, taking inspiration from Tamil Nadu's success in opposing the BJP and its allies during the recent Lok Sabha election.

Tribal people, Dalits are treated as second-class citizens in India: Rahul

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday attacked the Narendra Modi government and the RSS while addressing party leaders during a "Save Constitution Conference" in Patna.

In his third visit to Bihar in three months, Mr. Gandhi said Mahatma Gandhi had written *My Experiments with Truth*, but Modi*ji* would probably write "*My Experiments with Lies*".

Attacking the RSS, Mr. Gandhi said the Constitution did not have Savarkar's thinking; it had the thoughts of people like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and B.R. Ambedkar.

Lashing out at the Centre, Mr. Gandhi said tribal people and Dalits were treated as second class citizens in India.

"In this country, if you are not from the upper caste, then you are a second-class citizen. I am saying this because I have observed and understood the system very deeply. We

Raising issues: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a march in Begusarai in Bihar on Monday. PTI

conducted a caste survey in Telangana and based on its results, we increased the reservation. I myself have said in front of Narendra Modi that if your government does not end the wall of reservation, then we will break the wall of 50% limit," he said.

He spoke about protecting the Constitution, calling it the soul of India through which people get the power to move forward and raise voices for their rights.

Attacking the Modi government over price rise, the Congress leader said crude oil had reached its lowest level in four years. Mr. Gandhi said select billionaires were doing politics, and the Congress was fighting to defeat them.

"The people of Bihar will win this battle because Bihar has shown the way to this country," Mr. Gandhi said.

Changes in Bihar

Talking about recent changes in the party organisation in Bihar in which new district presidents had been appointed, Mr. Gandhi said that earlier district presidents were from upper castes, but the new list had two-thirds of the people from EBC, OBC, Dalit, Backward Class and minorities.

"[Congress president Mallikarjun] Kharge*ji* and I have given a clear message to the Bihar team that your job is to represent the poor people of Bihar. Dalits, EBC, OBC, poor general category and women have to be given space. We want to change the face of Bihar by bringing the youth of the State into politics," Mr. Gandhi said.

'Criticises Nitish'

Criticising the Nitish Kumar government, the Congress leader said the current government was benefiting Adani and Ambani and if a Congress government were to be formed, it would work for the people.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Gandhi joined the "*Palayan Roko, Naukri Do* (stop migration, give employment)" padayatra (foot march) in Begusarai along with Congress leader and NSUI national incharge Kanhaiya Kumar and Bihar Congress chief Rajesh Kumar.

'BJP tops list, receives ₹2,243.947 crore in donations in 2023-24'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The total donations declared by the national parties for the financial year 2023-24 were ₹2,544.278 crore, out of which ₹2,243.947 crore was declared by the BJP, says a report by the poll watchdog Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The ADR analysis of data submitted by the parties to the Election Commission (EC) said the total donations increased by ₹1,693.84 crore, or 199.17%, from those of the previous financial year.

The BJP declared a total of ₹2,243.947 crore from 8,358 donations, followed by the Congress, which declared ₹281.48 crore from 1,994. The donations declared by the BJP are more than six times the aggregate by the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the National People's Party, and the CPI(M).

Big increase

Donations to the BJP increased from ₹719.858 crore in 2022-23 to ₹2,243.947 crore in 2023-24, marking a 211.72% increase. Similarly, donations to the Congress rose from ₹79.924 crore in FY 2022-23 to ₹281.48 crore in FY 2023-24, reflecting a 252.18% increase.

Supreme Courts of India, Nepal sign MoU

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Courts of India and Nepal on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for judicial cooperation, an occasion which Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna termed as the lighting of a new torch in the relationship between the two countries' judiciaries.

Chief Justice Khanna, who spoke in the presence of Chief Justice of Nepal Prakash Man Singh Raut, said: "Jurisprudential exchanges ensure that our constitutional democracies are not insular, but open to learning, adaptation, and evolution."

It aims to create mechanisms for judicial exchanges and research .

MP State Tourism Development Corporation
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) – U63040MP1978SGC001445
Registered Office: Paryatan Bhavan, Bhad Bhada Road, Bhopal-462003
Tel.: 0755-4027112, Fax: 0755-2775434/2774289
Website: www.mpstdc.com Email: cs.mptb@mp.gov.in

Date – 07/04/2025

"Invitation to potential Investors and Operators For Stakeholder Meeting for Development, Operation & Maintenance and Management of 18-Hole Golf Course at Pachmarhi along with Hospitality Development on Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer (DBFOT) Mode"

MPSTDC invites potential investors and operators for Stakeholder Meeting to discuss the upcoming project for the Development, Operation & Maintenance and Management of 18-Hole Golf Course at pachmarhi along with Hospitality Development on Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer (DBFOT) Mode. The detailed Project Information Memorandum can be downloaded from website **www.mpstdc.com/ https://tourism.mp.gov.in.** The last date for submitting suggestions towards the project is **14th April 2025** on the email id –sandesh@mpstdc.com/**cs.mptb@mp.gov.in** For further information contact at +91 9424796880.

STAKEHOLDER MEETING DETAILS
Date : 14thApril 2025 Time : 12:00 PM
Venue : Madhya Pradesh Bhawan, 29 C-D, Jesus & Mary Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110021, India.

BIKANER TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
Karni Industrial Area, Pugal Road, Bikaner-334004
Ref. No. : F34/BTU/Store/Vehicle_hire-00139 Date : 05/04/2025

Notice Inviting Bid

Bikaner Technical University invites following bids:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Estimated Cost	NIB No.	UBN No.	Last Date & Time
1.	Data Processing Work	110.00 Lacs	BTU2526 A0001	BTU2526 SLOB00001	25.04.2025 up to 5.00 pm.
2.	Hiring of Vehicles as and when Required	17.70 Lacs	BTU2526 A0002	BTU2526 SLOB00002	15.04.2025 up to 5.00 pm.

Others particulars of the bids can be find on the procurement portal **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** of the state and Bikaner Technical University website **www.btu.ac.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/25/334 **Registrar**

KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A joint venture company of Govt. of India & Govt. of Kerala)
4th Floor, JLN Stadium Metro Station, Kaloor, Ernakulam-682017
Ph: 0484-2846700

E TENDER

OBTAINING INSURANCE

POLICIES FOR KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED

Bid submission end date:25.04.2025,05:00PM

GeM Tender Id : GEM/2025/B/6111858

Tender documents can be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.kochimetro.org

Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on website

उदयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, राजस्थान
No. :- F-2(01)Acct/Contract/2025-26/01 - 03 Date : 03/04/2025

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या : 01/2025-26

उदयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, उदयपुर द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यो मय डिफेक्ट लाईबिलिटी अवधि के लिये जो कि निविदा प्रपत्र में अंकित है के लिये उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदको से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :–

निविदा कार्यो की कुल लागत	: रूपये 2671.25 लाख (02 कार्य)
ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड / अपलोड करने की अवधि	: 05.04.2025 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 28.04.2025 को सांयः 6.00 बजे तक
Online EMD, Tender Fee & Processing Fee जमा कराने की तिथी	: 05.04.2025 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 28.04.2025 को सांयः 6.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तिथी	: 30.04.2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे (तकनिकी बिड)

विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट **urban.rajasthan.gov.in/uitudaipur**, **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** व **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।

UBN No. : ITU2526WLOB00002, ITU2526WLOB00003

राज.संवाद/ली/25/347 अधिशाषी अभियन्ता - तृतीय उदयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Delhi Transco Ltd (A Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking) intends to invite online tender for the following packages:

Tender No.T24P111741:

Package-I: Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 06 no. 220kV, 50 and 25MVAR Shunt Reactors alongwith all accessories and associated equipments at 400kV & 220kV Sub-Stations (Tikri Kalan, Bamnauli, Electric Lane, Indraprastha) on turnkey basis.

Package-II: Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 02 no. 220kV, 25MVAR Shunt Reactors with 216kV LA alongwith all accessories and associated equipments at 220kV Sub-Station DIAL on turnkey basis.

For complete details of the tender please visit following websites:-
https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. :2025_DTL_268001_1) and www.dtl.gov.in (Tender Reference No.: DTL- 9548-030425

Last date for bid submission: 26.05.2025 at 01:30 P.M.

All corrigendum/ Addendum/ Amendments/ Date of Extensions/Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600,),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/112/2024 Date : 07.04.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of Drugs for Ankylosing spondylitis & Multiple Sclerosis for KSSM for the year 2025 - 2026.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. Drugs
1.	KMSCL/ED/Multiple sclerosis/RC//2025/003 dtd. 07/04/2025	01
2.	KMSCL/ED/Ankylosing spondylitis/RC//2025/004 dtd. 07/04/2025	03

Last date and time of online uploading of tender - 21.04.2025, 5.00 pm.
Date and time of opening of Technical bid - 24.04.2025 11.30 am.

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor,
Sector - 11, Gandhinagar - 382 011
Website: https://www.gujarattourism.com

TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited from reputed and experienced parties towards **"Selection of Management Operator for Operation, Maintenance & Management (O&M) of Wayside Amenity Property at Mirzapur, Kutch-Gujarat".**

The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents, which shall be available for download from the websites:**https://tender.nprocure.com/** and **https://www.gujarattourism.com** from **08/04/2025 onwards.**

The last date for submission of the **Technical Bid and Financial Bid (online only) is 07/05/2025 up to 6:00 pm. and Technical Bid (physical only) is 09/05/2025 up to 3:00 pm.**

Managing Director

INBRIEF

Flight makes emergency landing as passenger dies

An IndiGo Airlines flight made an emergency landing at the airport in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar after an 89-year-old woman died on board, an airport official said on Monday. The Mumbai-Varanasi flight made an emergency landing at the Chikalthana Airport on Sunday night around 10 p.m., he said. The official said Sushila Devi, a native of Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh, boarded the flight from Mumbai and started feeling unwell mid-air. A medical team examined the woman on landing, but she had already deied. According to the airline, the woman's body was sent to the Government Medical College and Hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhjinagar. PTI

Guwahati to host meeting of Information Commissioners

Guwahati, Assam's principal city, will host a meeting of the Chief Information Commissioners of the country on Tuesday. A statement from the National Federation of Information Commissions of India (NFICI) said the meeting of its 14th annual general body and 32nd Board of Governors would focus on better coordination among the Central and State Information Commissions. It said the federation promotes use of information technologies or tools, and encourages initiatives in matters related to transparency and accountability in governance. Heeralal Samariya is the president of the NFICI.

Mamata meets affected teachers, offers support

CM says West Bengal will approach the top court with a review petition, and 'fight' for candidates affected by the order cancelling teaching and non-teaching appointments in State-run schools

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses teachers at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata on Monday. DEBASISH BHADURI

The crisis facing the West Bengal School Education Department, following a Supreme Court order cancelling the appointments of 25,752 teachers and non-teaching staff, showed no signs of abating despite Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's assurance to the candidates that the government would fight for their rights.

Ms. Banerjee held a meeting with the affected candidates at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata on Monday. There was chaos outside the venue, however, as only a section of those who had gathered was allowed inside. Some protesters outside the venue were forcibly dragged away by the police.

"We have 'Plan A, B, C, D and E' ready. Did you receive any notice terminating your jobs? You go and work... Who has stopped you? Continue with your work. You are free to offer voluntary services, in the meantime," the Chief Minister appealed to the affected teachers. However, many opposed Ms. Banerjee's suggestion that they can offer voluntary services, as they felt it will not help them pay bills.

The Chief Minister also added that the West Bengal government will approach the Supreme Court with a review petition and seek clarification on the fate of thousands of schoolchildren whose teachers have been affected by the court's order.

"We are asking Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Kapil Sibal, will also ask Prashant Bhusan, Kalyan Banerjee and many other legal luminaries, who will approach the Supreme Court on behalf of the State government and fight for the deserving candidates," she said.

The West Bengal government has not revealed any plans to hold fresh recruitment to fill the posts in State-run schools after the Supreme Court on April 3 upheld a 2024 Calcutta High Court judgment annulling the recruitment of 25,752 teachers and non-teaching staff appointed by the State School service Commission through a recruitment drive in 2016.

The Supreme Court had termed the entire selection process "vitiated and tainted", and said the recruitment drive had led to a situation "where it is difficult to separate the tainted from the untainted participants".

During her address, the Trinamool Congress chairperson appeared to be sympathetic to the candidates, but her support irked the "untainted candidates" who protested outside the venue. "Let the issue of deserving candidates be resolved, we will also look into the evidence as to how some candidates are being called tainted," the Chief Minister said.

BJP to hold protest

While Ms. Banerjee was making these remarks, a group of teachers who could not enter the venue met Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Suvendu Adhikari.

"The State still has a chance to submit the list by April 15. Or, on April 21, we will march to Nabanna [State Secretariat] with one lakh people. This will be a non-political, people's movement. We will sit in dharna, and if needed, we will push this government out of power," Mr. Adhikari said.

CDS says 'military space doctrine' to be out in three months

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

General Anil Chauhan

India is working on a "military space doctrine" that is likely to be brought out in two or three months, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said on Monday. "We are also working on a national military space policy," he said.

In his inaugural address at the third edition of the Indian DefSpace Symposium here, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) emphasised the space sector reforms undertaken by the country in recent years, and the work of the Defence Space Agency.

The CDS also said that humanity was on the "cusp of an era" where space is emerging as a new domain of warfare, and pitched for developing a "space culture" that entails developing doctrines, conducting research, and establishing dedicated warfare schools.

"The Defence Space Agency is working on bringing out a military space doctrine, which hopefully should be out in two or three months. We are also working on a national military space policy," the CDS told a gathering of defence and space experts. General Chauhan also mentioned the government's approval of a 52-satellite constellation for the defence sector, of which 31 satellites will be built by the private sector. "We are going to launch 52-odd satellites for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance purposes, in partnership with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and private sector," he said.

The Defence Space Agency is working on an integrated satellite communication grid to mitigate the current limitations and "prepare ourselves for future", he said. He underlined that military space operations are critical for identifying potential threats to national security. These threats may originate from state or non-state actors, and the vulnerabilities may extend beyond the space-based system.

NCDs can strike early; health risks rise post-menopause, says report

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Sugar surge: The report says diabetes rates spiked from 14% pre-menopause to 40% post-menopause. REUTERS

The "Health of the Nation 2025" report by Apollo Hospitals has indicated that non-communicable diseases (NCD) often begin early, sometimes even in childhood or adolescence.

The findings also showed increased health risks for women post-menopause, with significant rise in diabetes, obesity, fatty liver, and hypertension.

The fifth edition of the report was launched on Monday, World Health Day. It provided insights into the rising burden of NCDs and deficiencies in the country.

2.85 lakh students

To identify and recognise NCDs and their onset early on in life, Apollo SHINE Foundation, an initiative of Apollo Hospitals, screened 2.85 lakh students across primary, middle and high school aged between three and 17 as well as students in college across six States and 10 cities.

The results revealed a rise in obesity with age – 28% of college students were overweight, compared with 8% of primary school students. The report said 9% of students in high school and 19% of students in college are pre-hypertensive, and 2% of college students had high blood glucose levels.

If not properly managed, the burden of NCDs continues to escalate throughout a person's lifetime, leading to significant health challenges in adulthood, it said.

Highlighting trends in women's health and the impact of menopause, the report showed that diabetes rates spiked from 14% pre-menopause to 40% post-menopause.

Obesity rose sharply from 76% to 86% and prevalence of fatty liver climbed from 54% to 70%. Hypertension rose from 15% to 40%. Concluding that clustering of metabolic and cardiovascular conditions increases post-menopause, the report emphasised the need for comprehensive health management strategies.

Fatty liver

Another concern was the rising burden of fatty liver – 65% of the 2.5 lakh individuals screened had fatty liver, 85% were non-alcoholic. Fatty liver is now classified as Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease, mainly driven by obesity, diabetes and hypercholesterolemia – not alcohol alone.

Jagadesh Kumar retires as Chairman of University Grants Commission

The Hindu Bureau

Jagadesh Kumar

Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar has retired as Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

He took over the position in February 2022. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Kumar promoted the principles of the National Education Policy, 2020.

Under his tenure, the UGC announced a new set of regulations to streamline the process of recognising and granting equivalence to academic qualifications obtained from foreign institutions.

The UGC (Recognition and Grant of Equivalence to Qualifications Obtained from Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2025, now allow for the recognition of qualifications obtained from offshore campuses of foreign institutions. Mr. Kumar promoted the NEP consistently through his policies and speeches.

Debated decision

Speaking at an event about the spirit of the NEP, Mr. Kumar said, "Let the students think freely, without any constraints of disciplinary boundaries. Students should not be conformists; they should challenge the status quo and question everything they study."

One of the most debated decisions under Mr. Kumar's tenure was the discontinuation of the UGC-CARE list. It was a list of quality academic journals, first introduced in 2018. The UGC-CARE list has been replaced by a set of parameters for choosing journals based on eight criteria.

As Chairman of the UGC, Mr. Kumar brought many reforms to UG and PG education. The Draft UGC (Minimum Standards of Instructions in the Award of UG and PG Degrees) Regulations, 2024 proposed sweeping changes in admission as well as the structure of programmes. This brought to the students the liberty to pursue multidisciplinary education.

Pilot norms: HC asks DGCA to adhere to July 1 timeline

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

After a six-year battle mounted by pilots for relaxed duty hours and enhanced rest, the Delhi High Court on Monday disposed of the matter after an undertaking by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that the implementation timeline for the new norms will kick off from July 1.

While airlines like Air India sought 15 days for submitting its scheme to the DGCA, and another 45 days after the approval of their scheme by the regulator for implementing the new rules, the court made it clear that the implementation timeline can't breach the July 1 timeline.

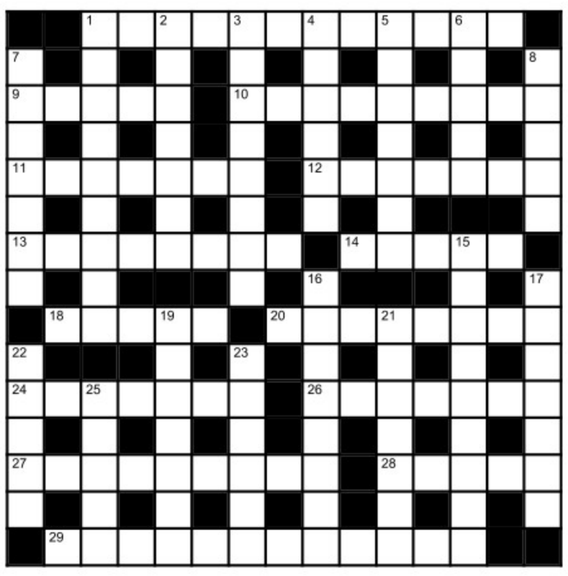
The court also said that if the DGCA breached the timeline, petitioners could approach the court.

TH CROSSWORD + 14453

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Agreed to stop doing something and retired (6,2,1,3)
9 Reportedly, takes home seabirds (5)
10 Party perhaps too big mainly to get vote in this? (6,3)
11 Criminal in prison, not silent when handcuffed (2,5)
12 Fish maybe more graceful when drinking left out water mainly (7)
13 Dispatch rider bags letters essentially for nobleman (8)
14 Quiet shooter, they say (5)
18 Apart from cycling clues (5)
20 Rodent-killer is fighting a battle, lost headgear! (8)
24 Theoretical explosion huge initially, God forbid first (3,4)
26 Load rifle case in box (7)
27 Three should leave European Union at the outset (9)
28 Miser holed up in crevasse (5)
29 It gives odour of rotting flesh? - Sweep floor properly in unoccupied chamber (6,6)

Down

1 Proceeds from criminal money? Spend for the audience (9)
2 Stupid person steals money [no cents] to spend extravagantly (4,3)
3 Adorns with raised work, messes around with book often (8)
4 Murder plan take heads off and treat badly (3-3)
5 Deadly poison in bacon items (7)
6 I hear everything of poor quality in the music collection (5)
7 Charm of bride ends with consumption of arsenic ultimately (7)
8 In addition, ten square in times? (5)
15 Nurse's grievance resolved without final compensation, right? (9)
16 Top of passing fashion coming up? It's a bloomer (8)
17 Expecting delivery of cast iron, untied occasionally inside (2,5)
19 Formulates key roadmap on battle over drink (5,2)
21 It cuts exorbitant rates in fiscal wars primarily (7)
22 Helps a top society go to the bottom (5)
23 Turn a blind eye to rude king killing knight or earl (6)
25 Rubbish collector in dress circle (5)

SUDOKU

1							3	
	2	4				8		
	3			4	5	6		1
		7		9	2		6	
		3				1		
	1		3	6		5		
9		8	5	1			7	
		6				9	1	
	7							5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6483 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

R	E	N	T	A	M	O	B	A
T	O	N	C	E	L	E	A	R
N	A	Z	I	R	I	D	I	C
U	L	O	U	S	B	C	C	T
O	E	H	O	O	K	A	H	C
H	I	P	O	T	L	E	R	E
H	O	M	A	N	G	O	S	T
E	E	N	E	R	A	S	T	L
M	G	D	E	L	I	S	A	I
L	O	R	S	U	I	T	T	T
S	N	C	O	N	T	R	A	C
T	T	O	A	M	A	N	W	E
R	H	B	T	I	N	G	R	A
T	I	A	T	E	U	P	O	N
E	E	L	C	U	S	R	B	R
I	D	G	E	E	S	P	R	E
S	S	O						

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	8	2	4	9	3	1	6	7
9	4	1	5	6	7	3	2	8
7	3	6	8	1	2	5	9	4
3	7	9	2	5	8	4	1	6
8	6	4	1	7	9	2	3	5
2	1	5	6	3	4	7	8	9
6	2	7	9	4	1	8	5	3
1	9	3	7	8	5	6	4	2
4	5	8	3	2	6	9	7	1

FAITH

The road to right living

The Lord manifested as Rama in Treta Yuga and to this day, even in Kali Yuga, the Ramayana, His biography, continues to be the top manual of good conduct, both spiritually and materially. Valmiki wrote the Ramayana as it dovetails with the efficacious lifestyle as recommended in the Vedas and showcases Rama of flawless traits. Over centuries, this work has been translated into various languages, under different formats by various savants, sages, poets and musicians, since it offers a solution to man's search for the perfect guide to lead a good life, said Damodara Dikshidar.

As soon as a child is born, parents desire two things: that the child lead a healthy life and develop good conduct and character. Earthly goals come much later. This is where the Ramayana holds sway as a guide to principled living. It highlights the 16 desirable qualities that Rama possessed, enabling Him to lead a life of virtue and adhere to dharma in every way, regardless of the challenges faced as a human being. One may see that even the top 10 achievers in this world exhibited less than half the traits attributed to Rama. How then can ordinary individuals emulate Rama? His famous 16 traits are not impossible goals, but easily applicable in one's day-to-day life. Rama is renowned for his attribute of forgiveness. We are not dustbins to hold all the wrongs and ills of the world, but should let go. Veeryavan is not someone who uses violence to subjugate people but one with the ability to withstand any loss, including kingdom. He accepted the change in fortunes calmly. Kamban says Rama's face was like a newly bloomed lotus upon hearing of his banishment.

INBRIEF

Auto retail sales rise 6.5%, rural market outpaces urban

The overall automobile retail sales in FY25 (from April 2024 to March 2025) saw a growth of 6.46% over the previous year, with passenger vehicles (PV) growing 4.87%, two-wheelers rising 7.71% and commercial vehicles de-growing by 0.17%, according to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on Monday. PVs performed better in rural belts with 7.93% growth, compared with 3.07% in urban markets, according to FADA.

Tariff impact: Pharma stocks battered, touch new lows

Shares of pharmaceutical companies got hammered down in the Monday stock market meltdown amid the tariff war set in motion last week by the U.S. with reciprocal tariffs. All 20 companies forming part of the Nifty Pharma were in the red. While Aurobindo Pharma, Dr. Reddy's and Zydus Lifesciences shares opened at their 52-week low, Gland Pharma, Natco Pharma and JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals shares touched a new low intra-day on the NSE. Cipla shares on BSE touched a 52-week low.

Juspay raises $60 million as part of Series D funding

Juspay, a Bengaluru-based payment infra provider for enterprises and banks, has secured $60 million as part of its Series D funding in a combination of primary and secondary investments. Kedaara Capital led the investment round with participation from existing investors Softbank and Accel, Juspay said on Monday. The firm said it would continue to accelerate the growth of its open-source payments orchestration platform and further advance its AI capabilities to build future-ready innovations.

Market mayhem hits 'pandemic time' retail investors hard

Those who flocked to the markets in 2020, but could not book profits and averaged during the correction period since Sept. 2024 hit the most

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Retail investors who had flocked to the market at the time of COVID outbreak are believed to be the worst hit by the market mayhem. Those who could not book profits and averaged during the period of correction since September 2024 to average the losses seem to be impacted the most.

"One thing that the global equity market does not like is uncertainty. As of today, the level of uncertainty in the world is at its peak," said Apurva Chaturvedi, co-chairman, IMC Young Leaders Forum.

"When there is no clarity on what the future holds, investors like to cash out and keep the funds ready for deployment when levels of uncertainty reduces. And this is why the markets are in a free fall," he added.

Retail participation has been a key support system driving positive trends in the stock market over the last five years. From 4 crore demat accounts in 2020 the number has gone up to 14 crore in 2024 with over 10 crore new investors joining the capital market during this period.

According to January 2025 data from AMFI, a fall of 3.6% was witnessed in equity mutual fund inflows, totalling ₹39,687 crore. However, net investments stayed positive for 47 months. The monthly systematic investment plan (SIP) inflows into MFs fell to a three-month low of ₹25,999 crore in February as market sell-off intensified, as per AMFI data, indicating nervousness among retail investors.

"The pain in the market is real, and you can feel it across the board—from seasoned investors to those who joined the rally post-COVID in 2020. Many retail investors are now sitting on losses of 20-30%, facing their first real market crash," said Trivesh D, COO, Tradejini, a brokerage firm.

"The psychology of loss is kicking in hard, especially for those who had put in their savings expecting steady growth. But this cycle isn't new buying high in euphoria and selling low in panic has been happening for decades," he said.

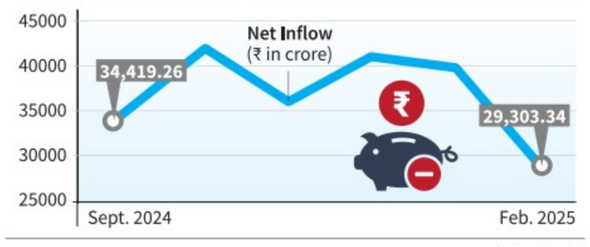
"We're in a phase where caution matters more than confidence. Investors can consider raising some cash when the market shows brief stability and then deploy it gradually, not all at once. No one can time the bottom perfectly, so it's better to stay strategic," Mr. Trivesh said.

"On days like today, with wild swings, the best thing to do is stay calm. Don't panic sell. Don't rush to buy either. Let the market settle. There could be pockets of opportunity in financials, infra, cement, maybe even selectively in pharma or real estate if global jitters ease," he added.

"This feels like a broader capitulation phase. Retail investors may have been shaken out early. Mutual fund SIPs are already seeing redemptions and pause signals. When investors see red on their statements, they tend to hesitate and that's understandable," he said, adding that right now it is about protecting capital, keeping emotions in check and waiting for clarity.

SIP dip

The monthly SIP inflows into MFs fell to a three-month low of ₹25,999 crore in Feb. as market selloff intensified, as per AMFI data



Source: AMFI

China's unfair trade practices behind global turmoil: Goyal

Ashokamithran T
MUMBAI

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said China's "improper trade practices" are behind the current turbulence in the global economy.

"The starting point of this actually goes back to the beginning of maybe 2000 or 3 or 4 years before that. When China was admitted as a member of the WTO collectively, everybody in the world accepted China as a member of the WTO," he said during an event here on Monday.

"Many parts of the world were convinced that China will transform its processes and bring transparency to their economy and will work on fair terms in the global economy. And we've seen that growth over the last 25-30 years, an almost relentless growth to become the second largest economy in the world," the Minister said. "But what everybody closed their eyes to was that this growth was fuelled by unfair trade practices. This growth happened at the cost of fair trade. This growth had its foundation on every action which in the rules of the game would be considered improper," Mr. Goyal said at the India Global Forum NXT 25 event.

He cited the unfair trade practices of China as the reason behind not permitting BYD to set shop in India. "We have to be cautious in whom we allow to invest in the country. We have to be cautious about our strategic interests, our security interests. As of now it's a no," he said. Mr. Goyal further said that India would turn this challenge into an opportunity and play the game according to the rules, unlike countries that resorted to predatory pricing, dumping, unfair labour practices and attacking supply chains of nations.

Piyush Goyal

Asked if there were chances of China resorting to further dumping after the U.S. tariffs, he said that it was a challenge and advised industry to "stay on top of it."

Speaking on "reciprocal tariffs", Mr. Goyal underlined that India charged fairly low tariffs on the U.S. "If you look at the United States, for example, while our overall tariff may be 17%, but a lot of it are products that we don't import at all. Our applied tariff to the United States is probably 7% or 8%. It's not humongous," he said. Applied tariff is the actual tariff charged by a country on goods imported.

This is Mr. Goyal's first public statement after the announcement of U.S. tariff action on India.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,138	-2.95
US Dollar	85.76	-0.37
Gold	91,450	-1.66
Brent oil	64.62	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2212.70	-121.95
Adani Ports	1110.65	-37.70
Apollo Hosp	6683.30	-31.25
Asian Paints	2341.35	-14.70
Axis Bank	1047.95	-43.35
Bajaj Auto	7306.80	-378.30
Bajaj Finserv	1852.65	-59.65
Bajaj Finance	8568.00	-150.85
Bharat Elec	272.10	-7.90
Bharti Airtel	1686.65	-56.80
Cipla	1384.70	-30.55
Coal India	377.50	-7.55
Dr Reddys Lab	1087.90	-22.05
Eicher Motors	5065.25	-182.65
Grasim Ind	2509.10	-107.80
HCL Tech	1374.10	-48.00
HDFC Bank	1757.70	-59.60
HDFC Life	665.95	-23.10
Hero MotoCorp	3526.90	-132.30
Hindalco	561.80	-38.15
Hind Unilever	2249.40	4.85
ICICI Bank	1287.55	-47.75
IndusInd Bank	675.90	-6.10
Infosys	1396.75	-54.90
ITC	406.05	-3.65
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	213.52	-8.80
JSW Steel	930.30	-75.45
Kotak Bank	2037.85	-94.10
L&T	3068.50	-191.65
M&M	2491.25	-105.30
Maruti Suzuki	11329.75	-152.25
NestleIndia	2249.00	-13.15
NTPC	349.80	-0.60
ONGC	219.84	-6.17
PowerGrid Corp	289.40	-4.50
Reliance Ind	1165.70	-39.00
SBI Life	1460.80	-51.80
State Bank	746.90	-20.55
Shriram Finance Ltd.	614.00	-39.60
Sun Pharma	1666.35	-43.00
TataConsumerProduct	1047.35	-40.50
Tata Motors	579.75	-34.10
Tata Steel	129.48	-10.91
TCS	3274.05	-25.35
Tech Mahindra	1288.00	-32.95
Titan	3022.20	-54.00
Trent Ltd.	4740.95	-821.90
UltraTech Cement	11191.60	-307.05
Wipro	242.90	-3.40
Zomato Ltd.	209.63	-0.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 07

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.64	85.96
Euro	93.90	94.26
British Pound	109.84	110.26
Japanese Yen (100)	58.53	58.75
Chinese Yuan	11.72	11.76
Swiss Franc	100.11	100.49
Singapore Dollar	63.60	63.85
Canadian Dollar	60.06	60.29
Malaysian Ringitt	19.09	19.19
Australian Dollar	51.67	19.19

Source:Indian Bank

Taking stock of only Black Mondays? time to ponder

Vaishali R. Venkat
CHENNAI

Wall collapses: This photo dated October, 1929 shows traders rushing in Wall Street as NYSE crashed. AFP

Mondays are often mysterious and sometimes monstrous too, in the world of finance. For, they follow two dull and dormant days (Saturdays and Sundays). In the intervening 48 hours of silence, tensions may simmer and shatter business empires. History is replete with such events; however, such events did not occur on Mondays alone.

Let's look at some of the events that shook the world of finance on different days of the week.

October 19, 1987
Black Monday: Also known as the Great Crash, this was the day when global stock markets went into a meltdown and according to Britannica, almost half of the paper wealth of the world was lost completely. In a single day, U.S. benchmark index Dow Jones Industrial Index (DJII) crashed 22.6% (508 points) and almost $500 billion investors' money went down the drain. Financial experts consider this event to be the single largest loss in the history of the stock market till date. The repercussions could be felt in other countries too. In Australia and New Zealand, this event was termed as Black Tuesday, on time zone difference.

October 29, 1929
Black Tuesday: In a similar vein, another devastating stock market crash in the U.S. happened on a Tuesday. This signalled a bad omen then and the Great depression was the writing on the wall, owing to the crash. According to Britannica, "on this day, more than 16 million shares were traded." The DJII nosedived by another 12%, witnessing an abysmal close at 198, crashing by 183 points in less than two months.

September 16, 1992
Black Wednesday: It was on this day the United Kingdom was forced to withdraw its currency Sterling from the (first) European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM). Also known as Sterling crisis, this episode marked the failure of the United Kingdom to maintain its exchange rate above the stipulated lower limit for participating in the ERM. Owing to the Sterling crisis, the then ruling Conservative Party bit the dust in the elections that followed.

October 24, 1929
Black Thursday: It is referred to as the infamous 'gap-down' opening of the stock market in the U.S. with Wall Street plunging 11% and hundreds of investors indulging in panic selling. Coupled with the Black Tuesday, these two days are considered the precursor to the Great Depression. On this day, the Dow Jones veered into a tailspin drastically, at opening and loads of shares exchanged hands.

September 24, 1869
Black Friday: This denotes a catastrophic event that occurred more than a century ago. This 'black-swan' kind of U.S. gold market collapse was owing to unscrupulous actions by a ring of speculators who manipulated the gold price. According to financial experts, the speculative actions were kick-started by Wall Street speculators Jay Gould and James Fisk who indulged in cornering the gold market with an illicit motive.

September 24, 1983
Black Saturday: On this day, Hong Kong dollar's exchange rate hit an all-time low of HK $9.6 to US $1. The crisis was due to the uncertainties concerning the impending handing over of Hong Kong to China by the U.K. The crisis robbed investors of confidence following which the government of Hong Kong created a new link-based exchange rate system on October 17, 1983 to stabilise the economy.

Black Sunday
Since it is a holiday, there are not many officially-recognised Black Sundays in the financial world.

Rupee drops 32 paise to settle at 85.76/$, gold prices tumble

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The rupee declined 32 paise to settle at 85.76 against the U.S. dollar on Monday amid wide-spread global turbulence over escalated tariff war and fear of a global slowdown.

A steep decline in crude prices and a weaker American currency failed to arrest the fall in domestic currency due to the withdrawal rush by foreign as well as domestic equity investors, forex traders said.

They said the currency exchange markets globally saw extreme volatility as investors tried to escape risks following the U.S.' sweeping reciprocal tariffs on multiple countries and China's retaliatory move on U.S. imports.

In the domestic macroeconomic front, market participants were watchful as the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee began its three-day deliberations on key interest rates. The rate-setting panel's decision will be announced on Wednesday.

Anuj Choudhary, research analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the rupee slid on risk-off sentiments in global markets and a strong U.S. dollar. The rupee is expected to trade with a negative bias due to weak global markets and uncertainty around trade tariffs.

Meanwhile, gold prices tumbled by ₹1,550 to ₹91,450 per 10 grams in the national capital amid heavy selling by jewellers and stockists as well as weak global trend, as per the All India Sarafa Association.

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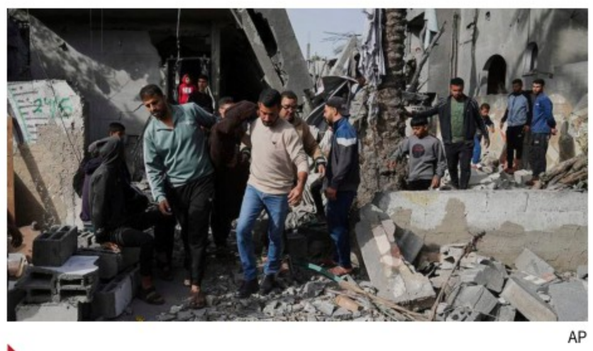
CHAIRPERSON, JOINT ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE 2025
Email: ask2025@jac.iisertirupati.ac.in, Website: https://www.iiseradmission.in
Phone: +91-877-2500910 (2 PM to 5 PM, Working Days)

SCAN ME

DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli strike on tent outside Gaza hospital kills, wounds journalists



AP

Israel struck a media tent outside a hospital in the Gaza Strip early on Monday, killing two, including a local reporter, and wounding six other journalists. The Israeli military said the strike targeted a man it says was a Hamas militant posing as a journalist. Twenty-eight others were killed in separate strikes, according to hospitals. AP

MANILA

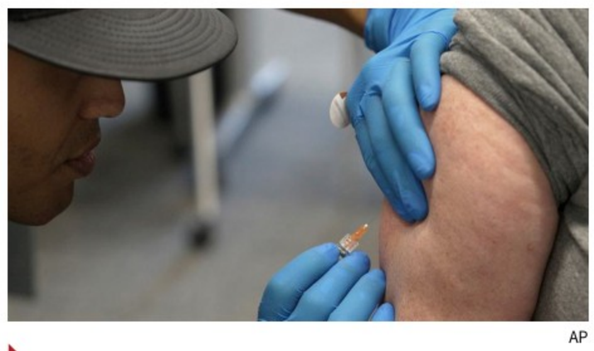
Philippines, U.S. launch joint drills aimed at 'strategic deterrence'

AFP

The Philippine and U.S. Air Forces kicked off joint exercises aimed at boosting operational coordination and enhancing "strategic deterrence". The drills follow months of confrontations between Beijing and Manila over disputed areas of the South China Sea with larger U.S.-Philippine air, land and sea exercises set for late April. AFP

WASHINGTON

Second child dies of measles in the U.S., while almost 650 reported ill

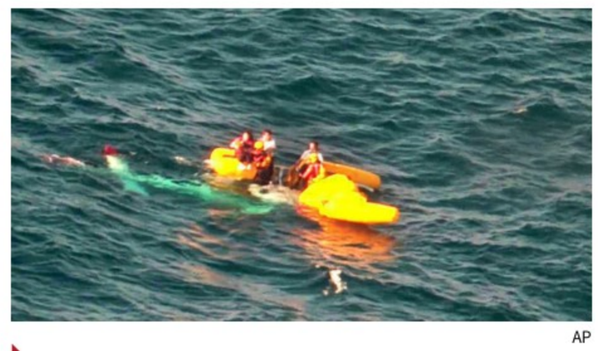


AP

A measles outbreak has killed a second child in southwestern U.S., authorities said on Sunday, with almost 650 people now infected as the highly contagious disease spreads. Health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a vaccine sceptic, posted on X that "the most effective way to prevent the spread of measles is the MMR vaccine." AFP

TOKYO

Three dead after medical chopper crashes off southwestern Japan



AP

Three persons died after a medical helicopter crashed into the sea off southwestern Japan. A total of six passengers were on board the helicopter heading to a hospital in Fukuoka city from Tsushima Island in the Nagasaki region on Sunday afternoon. The cause of the incident has not been established. AFP

'Israeli troops shot Gaza aid crew with intent to kill'

Agence France-Presse
RAMALLAH

The Palestine Red Crescent Society said on Monday that 15 medics and rescuers killed by Israeli forces last month in Gaza were shot in the upper body with "intent to kill".

The killings occurred in the southern Gaza Strip on March 23, and have since sparked international condemnation.

Younis Al-Khatib, president of the Red Crescent in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, told journalists in Ramallah that an autopsy revealed that "all the martyrs were shot in the upper part of their bodies, with the intent to kill".

He called for an international probe into the killings.

Netanyahu meets Trump for talks on tariffs and Gaza war

The Israeli Prime Minister will also discuss growing tensions with Iran; the U.S. President had slapped a 17% tariff on Israel, saying Washington had a significant trade deficit with the country

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Donald Trump at the White House on Monday, becoming the first foreign leader to personally plead for a reprieve from stinging U.S. tariffs that have shaken the world.

Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Trump are also set to discuss Gaza, where a short-lived U.S.-brokered truce between Israel and Hamas has collapsed, and growing tensions with Iran.

Mr. Trump greeted Mr. Netanyahu outside the West Wing and pumped his fist, before the two leaders – both wearing dark suits, red ties and white shirts – went inside for a meeting in the Oval Office.

Placation efforts: Donald Trump greets Benjamin Netanyahu at the West Wing of the White House in Washington on Monday. AP

A planned press conference between the two leaders was cancelled at short notice without explanation in an unusual move. During his last visit, Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Trump both spoke to reporters in the Oval and then held a press conference.

The Israeli premier's visit is his second to Mr. Trump since the U.S. President returned to power and comes at short notice – just days after Mr. Trump slapped a 17% tariff on Israel last week.

Mr. Trump refused to exempt the top beneficiary of U.S. military aid from his tariff salvo as he said Washington had a significant trade deficit with Israel.

Mr. Netanyahu said on his way to Washington on Sunday that they would discuss "the hostages, achieving victory in Gaza, and of course the tariff regime that has also been imposed on Israel."

Trump's reciprocal tariffs are 'economic bullying': China

Reuters
BEIJING

Threats and pressure are not the right way to deal with China, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday after describing U.S. President Donald Trump's "reciprocal tariffs" as bullying.

The tariffs are "typical unilateralism and protectionism, and economic bullying", spokesperson Lin Jian told a regular press conference, adding that U.S. tariffs in the name of reciprocity only serve its own interest at the expense of other countries.

Last week, Trump introduced an additional 34% tariff on Chinese goods as part of steep levies imposed on most U.S. trade partners, bringing the total duties on China this year to 54%. China retaliated with a series of countermeasures.

The U.S. introduced a 34% tariff on Chinese goods last week, bringing the total duties on China this year to 54%. GETTY IMAGES

Mr. Lin deferred to other bodies the question of whether China would engage in negotiations with the United States. U.S. customs agents have been collecting Mr. Trump's unilateral 10% tariff on all imports from many countries since Saturday.

"The abuse of tariffs by the United States is tantamount to depriving countries, especially those in the Global South, of their right to development," Mr. Lin said, adding that less developed countries are suffering a greater impact.

All countries should uphold consultation, joint construction and sharing, and "genuine multilateralism", he said.

Adani-backed Colombo port terminal starts operations; first vessel to call in May

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. on Monday announced commencing operations at the Colombo West International Terminal (CWIT) that it is jointly developing with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority and Sri Lankan Conglomerate John Keells Holdings.

The development assumes significance, coming months after the multinational conglomerate withdrew another investment in Sri Lanka, a controversial wind power project of Adani Green.

Monday's announcement marks the beginning of commercial operations at the port, but the inaugural call by a vessel is expected in May 2025, sources in Colombo indicated. The CWIT project – coming up next to the China-backed Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT) in Sri Lanka's strategic port – is to be executed through a 35-year-long build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract among the three parties. While Adani Ports holds majority stakes of 51%, John Keells holds 34%, and the SLPA, 15%.

Issuing a statement, Adani Ports said the terminal project represents "a significant investment" of $800 million and features a 1,400-metre quay length and 20-metre depth, enabling the terminal to handle 3.2 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) annually. "The facility is the first deep-water terminal in Colombo to be fully automated, designed to enhance cargo handling capabilities, improve vessel turnaround times and elevate the port's status as a key transshipment hub in South Asia," the company said.

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone is jointly developing the port with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chairman Gautam Adani termed it "a milestone" in India-Sri Lanka regional cooperation, according to the company's statement. Krishan Balendra, Chairperson, John Keells Group said the project "strengthens Sri Lanka's position as a regional maritime hub." The Sri Lanka Ports Authority has not commented.

Past controversies

The Adani Ports-led Colombo West International Terminal (CWIT) or the West Container Terminal project has been in focus for four years now. The agreement for the project was signed in September 2021, when President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was in office. That decision came months after he cancelled the East Container Terminal project that the governments of Sri Lanka, India, and Japan had agreed to jointly develop. His decision caused considerable strain in bilateral ties. Subsequently, Mr. Gotabaya offered the West Container Terminal to India.

The project was back in the spotlight last year, after Federal prosecutors in New York indicted Adani Group Chairman and seven others on multiple counts of fraud.

Despite past controversies surrounding the terminal project, the ruling Anura Kumara Dissanayake government has expressed keenness to take it forward, seeing opportunity to "boost revenue" at the Colombo Port. Sri Lanka's Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation Bimal Rathnayake described the CWIT project a "foster child" from two past governments [Presidents Gotabaya and Ranil Wickremesinghe]. "It was an unsolicited investment that came in without any competitive bid. But we cannot delete it like a computer programme, especially after considerable amount of infrastructure work has been done," he told *The Hindu*, adding that the National People's Power [NPP] government would try its best to follow due process in all future investments. "Also, more than 95 % of those employed at the terminal are young Sri Lankans," Rathnayake added.

'Gandhi had recognised the rights of Palestinians'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Palestinians are the indigenous people of Palestine, and even Mahatma Gandhi had supported the right of Palestinian people to their land, said the newly appointed Ambassador of Palestine, Abdullah Mohammad A. Abu Shawesh.

Speaking at a press meet at the Embassy of the State of Palestine, Ambassador Shawesh on Monday showed a collection of videos that chronicled the killing of Palestinians by Israeli armed forces in the West Bank.

"The question is not about whether any one of us lost relatives in the ongoing Israeli attack. The question is, how many relatives have we lost in the Israeli attacks? We are the indigenous people of Palestine, and the name of Palestinians finds mention in the Old Testament. Even Mahatama Gandhi had said that Palestine belongs to the Palestinians just like England belongs to the English people," Mr. Shawesh said.

Mr. Shawesh came down on the international media for not highlighting the killings in Gaza and the West Bank and argued that Israeli armed forces were carrying out random killings against Palestinian civilians. "The world knows the situation in Gaza is brutal because of the Israeli attacks, but the situation in the West Bank is no less compelling," he said.

The envoy, who arrived in India two months ago, blamed Prime Minister Netanyahu for setting Israel up for an eternal war and accused him of destroying the peace process.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owners **(1)Mr.Bharath Kumar .B,** s/o late M.B.Balachandran residing at #312, 9th Main, 11th Cross, Near Dayananda Sagar College, ISRO Layout, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru – 560078 **(2)Smt.Lakshmi Murthy,** w/o late R.Srinivasa Murthy residing at No.18, Lazer Road, Opp Police Qtrs, Frazer Town, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru – 560005 **(3) Smt.Vijaya K,** w/o late Hanumantharaju. R residing at No.102, Kanakapura Main Road, Yelachenahalli, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru - 560078, the Owner No.1 jointly having acquired title of a portion of the Schedule Property along with his mother late C.I.Dhanalakshmi under a Sale Deed dated 22.02.1967 registered as Document No.3678/66-67 of Book I, Volume 2099 at pages 99-101 in the office of the Hear Quarter Sub-Registrar, Bangalore Gandhinagar, and Owner Nos.2 & 3 having acquired title of the remaining portion of Schedule Property upon the death of their respective husbands.

All persons having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below-given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of vacant land bearing **Corporation No.50** having **PID No.92-1-50** measuring East to West:50 ft and North to South: 60 ft in all admeasuring **3000 sq.ft** of Mazurai Ramaswamy Palya Road, K.G. Byadarahalli Village, Nandidurg Road, Ward No.63-Jayamahal, Bengaluru and bounded as follows:

East by : Kayamguthadar's land
West by : Mazurai Ramaswamy Palya Road
North by : Kayamguthadar's land
South by : Sy.No.109.

Tejaswini
Advocate
202, Hubtown Prime, 3/2, A.M.Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru – 560 042
Mobile: 9740126137

Place : Bengaluru Date : 08.04.2025

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ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಸಿಂಧನೂರು

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಕಾಸಿಂ:ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–04–2025

–:: ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಮೂರನೇ ಕರೆ) ::–

(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಸಿಂಧನೂರು ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮರ್ಪಕವಾಗಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ತುರ್ವಿಹಾಳ ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಹತ್ತಿರ ತುಂಗಭದ್ರ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ಕಾಲೂವೆಯ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Project Management Consultancy and Supervising of Construction of Lower Impounding Reservoir for Supplying Drinking Water to Sindhanur City at Turvihal Village Sindhanur Taluk, Raichur District) ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮಾಲೋಚಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2024-25/SE4358/CALL-3 ಕೆ.ಸಿ.–4 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟನ ಪರತ್ತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಅರ್ಹ ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮಾಲೋಚಕರು/ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರಿಂದ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇಚ್ಛೈಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮಾಲೋಚಕರು/ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–04–2025@4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–04–2025@ 4.45 ರ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–04–2025 ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.sindhanurcity.mrc.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆದು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ ಸಿಂಧನೂರು

DIP/RCR/10/KSMC&A/10/2025-26

THE HINDU GROUP

DAY 18

'SPORTSTAR INDIAN POSTER LEAGUE

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1. Which common nickname connects Lebron James, Pele, Sir Vivian Richanrds?
2. The first and only batsman to score 10,000 runs in successful chases represents which country?
3. After India's 2011 World Cup triumph, which cricketer famously carried Sachin Tendulkar on his shoulders during the victory lap at Wankhede Stadium, stating, 'He carried the hopes of a billion Indians'?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/SSIPLPA** to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. **Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.**

Yesterday's poster: Steve Smith

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Madhav Gupta, Jalandhar | 2. Gaurav Banjare, Bhilai | 3. Tejasri. B, Tiruchengode

SOLID BACKING

CSK spinners are good enough to adapt to any surface: Sriram

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Assistant bowling coach S. Sriram backed the CSK spinners to come good against PBKS. "We have quality spinners, no doubt about that. Whatever surface we are presented with, our spinners are good enough to adapt. We are not worried about what has happened before. It is just about how we execute (plans) on the day," he said.

COOL CUSTOMER

'Pant is always chilled out and working very hard on his batting'

PTI

There is no change in the mood (of Rishabh Pant). As you can see, he is always chilled out and he has been the same with us. He is working very hard on his batting. And, we hope that in crunch time Pant will make runs and win the match for us — Shahbaz Ahmad about LSG captain Pant.

NOTHING STRANGE

Digvesh celebrates in a 'friendly way', says Shahbaz

SANDEEP SAXENA

Priyansh Arya, against whom he (Digvesh Rathi) celebrated for the first time, is a very good friend of his. On TV, it may look like a strange celebration. But, he did it in a friendly way. I hope that he won't do it again. This is his first IPL season — Shahbaz Ahmad on his LSG teammate Digvesh's over the top celebration.

PENALTY

Ishant handed one demerit point; fined 25% of match fee

K.V.S. GIRI

Gujarat Titans seamer Ishant Sharma was handed one demerit point and fined 25% of his match fee after breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the seven-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad. Ishant admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article 2.2 and accepted match referee Javagal Srinath's sanction.

Kohli, Krunal help RCB break Wankhede jinx

The maestro goes past the 13,000-run mark in T20 cricket; Patidar and Jitesh too sparkle for Royal Challengers; Hardik and Tilak's heroics in vain as the home side suffers another narrow loss

IPL-18

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Hurricane Hardik Pandya hit the Wankhede Stadium. Tilak Varma came up with a whirlwind knock too. But the duo's dazzling display was not enough for Mumbai Indians against a robust Royal Challengers Bengaluru in a marquee clash of the Indian Premier League here on Monday night.

The duo's effort ensured a thriller. But it did not change the tide in the favour of the home team, instead Royal Challengers ended a 10-year jinx at the Wankhede.

Hardik and Tilak's 89-run association off just 34 balls brought Mumbai Indians within touching distance of overhauling RCB's 221 for five and set a record for the highest successful run-chase in IPL history at the Wankhede. But a timely ball-change - a new rule introduced to counter the impact of dew - helped RCB register a 12-run win.

While Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood and Krunal Pandya - who excelled upon returning to his old home venue - kept their cool by bowling three superb overs at the death, the game was set up by the RCB batters who gave their bowlers the much-needed cushion on a batting paradise with the dew setting in.

Virat Kohli dazzled the crowd with his fastest IPL fifty since 2018. The maestro also went past the 13,000-run mark in T20 cricket.

Captain Rajat Patidar and Jitesh Sharma were red-hot in their finishing act as RCB added 121 runs in the latter half despite tottering at 99 for four in 12 overs and the game all but done and dusted.

But the duo caused mayhem to give MI an outside chance.

With 41 required off 19 balls, RCB opted for a drier ball and it did the trick with Bhuvneshwar dismissing Tilak in the next over and Josh Hazlewood forcing Hardik into a false stroke in the penultimate over.

It meant Krunal had to defend 19 runs in the last over. And he struck thrice as the MI lower-order mistimed consistently.

Jasprit Bumrah marking his return to action with an economical spell.

When Hardik joined Tilak in the middle, MI was

Stealing the show: Kohli took the attack to the spinners to set the platform for RCB while Krunal held his nerve at the death to hand the visitor a hard-fought win. EMMANUAL YOGINI

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Phil Salt b Boult 4 (*2b, 1x4*), Virat Kohli c Dhir b Hardik 67 (*42b, 8x4, 2x6*), Devdutt Padikkal c Jacks b Vignesh 37 (*22b, 2x4, 3x6*), Rajat Patidar c Rickelton b Boult 64 (*32b, 5x4, 4x6*), Liam Livingstone c Bumrah b Pandya 0 (*2b*), Jitesh Sharma (not out) 40 (*19b, 2x4, 4x6*), Tim David (not out) 1 (*1b*); Extras (lb-1, w-7): 8; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 221.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-4 (Salt, 0.2 overs), 2-95 (Padikkal, 8.6), 3-143 (Kohli, 14.1), 4-144 (Livingstone, 14.3), 5-213 (Patidar, 18.6).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Boult 4-0-57-2, Chahar 2-0-29-0, Bumrah 4-0-29-0, Jacks 1-0-10-0, Santner 4-0-40-0, Hardik 4-0-45-2, Vignesh 1-0-10-1.

MUMBAI INDIANS
Rohit Sharma **(Impact player for Vignesh)** b Dayal 17 (*9b, 2x4, 1x6*), Ryan Rickelton lbw b Hazlewood 17 (*10b, 4x4*), Will Jacks c Kohli b Krunal 22 (*18b, 2x4, 1x6*), Suryakumar Yadav c Livingstone b Dayal 28 (*26b, 5x4*), Tilak Varma c Salt b Bhuvneshwar 56 (*29b, 4x4, 4x6*), Hardik Pandya c Livingstone b Hazlewood 42 (*15b, 3x4, 4x6*), Naman Dhir c Dayal b Krunal 11 (*6b, 1x4, 1x6*), Mitchell Santner c David b Krunal 8 (*4b, 1x6*), Deepak Chahar c David b Krunal 0 (*1b*), Trent Boult (not out) 1 (*1b*), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 0 (*1b*); Extras (lb-1, w-6): 7; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 209.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-21 (Rohit, 1.4), 2-38 (Rickelton, 3.4), 3-79 (Jacks, 9.4), 4-99 (Suryakumar, 11.6), 5-188 (Tilak, 17.4), 6-194 (Hardik, 18.1), 7-203 (Santner, 19.1), 8-203 (Chahar, 19.2), 9-209 (Naman, 19.5).

RCB BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 4-0-48-1, Dayal 4-0-46-2, Hazlewood 4-0-37-2, Suyash 4-0-32-0, Krunal 4-0-45-4.
Toss: MI; **PoM:** Patidar.
RCB won by 12 runs.

Next assignment

RCB: April 10 vs DC
Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

MI: April 13 vs DC
Delhi, 7.30 p.m

Shahbaz plays down Bishnoi's high economy rate

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Lucknow Super Giants all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed said the team's injured bowlers were recovering and the bowling attack was getting better.

"If four bowlers (Akash Deep, Avesh Khan, Mayank Yadav and Mohsin Khan) are injured and are not available, then there is a concern...All those things have settled down. Akash is available. Avesh is also available. Mayank, I hope, will be available soon," said Shahbaz ahead of Super Giants' match against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens here on Tuesday.

Referring to spinner Ravi Bishnoi's high economy, he said the brand of cricket had changed. "There's not much discussion about the economy. It's just about how to make an impact, how to take wickets."

KKR assistant coach Ottis Gibson hoped the Indian pace pair of Vaibhav Arora and Harshit Rana would click.

"The key is to take wickets with the new ball, which we did (against SRH). Both Vaibhav and Harshit have done very well.

Knight Riders, Super Giants gear up for mid-table clash

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Having experienced a similar journey so far, Kolkata Knight Riders and Lucknow Super Giants will engage in a duel of mid-table one-upmanship in the Indian Premier League at the Eden Gardens here on Tuesday.

On their home grounds, KKR outplayed Sunrisers Hyderabad while LSG pipped Mumbai Indians. Following a breather due to the postponement of the match from Sunday, both sides will like to carry forward the momentum.

In a perfect setting, KKR will depend on its traditional supporters, whereas LSG will bank on its Mohun Bagan links to gain traction.

Pacers Vaibhav Arora and Harshit Rana will dream of another fairytale start. Moeen Ali and mystery spinners Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravarthy will be keen to cast their spell on a slower track.

LSG too has its share of mystery in Digvesh Rathi while Ravi Bishnoi and M. Siddharth too are capable spinners. Shardul Thakur, Avesh Khan and Akash Deep provide options as the pace attack has started settling down. Nicholas Pooran and Mitchell Marsh have contributed nearly 50 per cent of LSG's runs. Captain Rishabh Pant, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Ayush Badoni and Abdul Samad have the potential to destroy any attack.

Because of its familiarity with the conditions, KKR may stay ahead in an expected run feast.

Vital cog: Venkatesh's return to form is a big plus for KKR.
K.R. DEEPAK

Today's matches

Kolkata, 3.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 5
KKR 2 | LSG 3

PREVIOUS MEETING
KKR won by **98 runs**, 2024

New Chandigarh, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 30
PBKS 14 | CSK 16

PREVIOUS MEETING
CSK won by **28 runs**, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

PBKS faces a struggling CSK as teams aim to return to winning ways

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
NEW CHANDIGARH

Tuesday's IPL fixture at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium will be between two wounded teams: Punjab Kings and Chennai Super Kings.

The depth of their wounds, though, is as different as it comes.

Host PBKS' 50-run loss to Rajasthan Royals would just feel like a small cut compared to CSK's struggles – coming off three crippling defeats (against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, RR and Delhi Capitals).

While the PBKS batters showed fight in their 206-run chase despite losing early wickets, Super Kings' efforts with the bat have been tame.

CSK's scores after the first 10 overs in these games were as follows: 65 for four vs RCB, 74 for three vs RR, and 69 for four vs DC.

By the time Vijay Shankar (69 n.o., 54b, 5x4, 1x6) and M.S. Dhoni (30 n.o., 26b, 1x4, 1x6) got going against DC, the match had gone out of CSK's reach.

Changing the personnel, too, has not helped the five-time champion. A major course correction is necessary to beat Shreyas Iyer's PBKS, which showed its might with two wins in its first two outings.

The PBKS bowlers will have to step up after being the first in the IPL to concede 200 at the venue. Only Arshdeep Singh (4-0-35-1) and Lockie Ferguson (4-0-37-2) had decent outings as the RR willow-wielders scored heavily in the death overs.

Nehal Wadhera's knocks in the last two games should instill confidence in the PBKS ranks.

Will it be Kings or Super Kings that get back to winning ways?

Time to fire: Jadeja will hope to come to the party for CSK.
SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Kings not too concerned about poor home record

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
NEW CHANDIGARH

Punjab Kings' assistant bowling coach Trevor Gonsalves said the side's struggles at home in the IPL were not something to fret over.

"We had been to Ahmedabad and beat Gujarat Titans over there. That was their home. We went to Lucknow and won there. That was their [Lucknow Super Giants''] home. So, there is nothing of home advantage or not taking the advantage or anything," Gonsalves said on the eve of the match against Chennai Super Kings at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium.

The defeat to Rajasthan Royals on Saturday was PBKS' fifth straight loss at the venue.

CSK assistant bowling coach S. Sriram said the bowlers have done "pretty well" so far and added that the composition of the top-order will be decided only on match-day.

"Still do not have an idea. We will take the call on the day. I don't think there is a fixed order. The coach and the captain will come up with what's best for the team and the conditions," said Sriram.

INBRIEF

Harry Brook named England's white-ball captain

Harry Brook has been appointed as England's new white-ball captain, leading both the One-Day International and Twenty20 teams, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced on Monday. The 26-year-old Yorkshire batsman was the favourite to succeed Jos Buttler, who stood down in February after a woeful Champions Trophy campaign in Pakistan ended with England failing to reach the semifinals.

India blanks Thailand, finishes in ninth place

India beat Thailand 3-0 for the ninth place in the Asia-Oceania WJT under-14 girls tennis in Kuching, Malaysia, on Monday. It was a very creditable effort by the Indian team to win all its matches after having lost the two league matches against Korea and Japan, the eventual champion and runner-up in the 16-team competition. India beat Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand without losing a rubber. The top four teams China, Japan, Taiwan and Korea qualify for the World Group competition.

The results: Play-off ninth place: India bt Thailand 3-0 (Srishti Kiran bt Pikpisa Wongwanitkajon 6-3, 6-1; Jensi Kanabar bt Paweenon Nualsri 6-2, 6-2; Jensi & Srishti bt Paweenon & Pattinan Phueakkam 6-1, 6-3).

Ju survives a scare in game four, stays level with Tan

Reigning champion Ju Wenjun survived severe pressure on the board and on the clock to secure a five-hour, 80-move draw against Chinese compatriot Tan Zhongyi that left the scores level at 2-2 after game four of the FIDE women's world chess championship in Shanghai on Monday. The fifth game will be played on Wednesday.

Pegula wins WTA Charleston after Kenin collapse

Top seed Jessica Pegula took advantage of a dramatic collapse by Sofia Kenin to claim her second title of the season, after the ATX Open in Austin, with a 6-3, 7-5 victory in the WTA Charleston Open final on Sunday.

Qualifier Brooksby stuns Tiafoe to win maiden ATP title

Qualifier Jenson Brooksby, ranked 507th in the world, upset second-seed Francis Tiafoe 6-4, 6-2 to win the US Men's Clay Court Championships in Houston on Sunday. Brooksby had saved match point in three matches after battling out of qualifying to beat top seed Tommy Paul in the semifinal.

Relegated Southampton parts ways with manager Juric

Southampton has sacked manager Ivan Juric following its relegation from the Premier League, the club announced Monday. Southampton was condemned to relegation in record time after a 3-1 defeat at Tottenham on Sunday.

TVS Racing selection trials from May 9 to 11

TVS Motor Company has announced the selection trials for the Petronas TVS India One Make Championship 2025. The trials will be conducted between May 9 and May 11 at the Madras International Circuit (MIC) in Chennai for multiple categories – TVS Women's OMC, TVS Rookie OMC, and TVS RR310 OMC. Contact 09632253833.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Apuia's late strike sends Bagan into summit clash

Home team rides on the win in the second leg to overturn Jamshedpur FC's advantage; to face Bengaluru FC in final on April 12; visitor's determined run comes to a halt

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Clinching it! Apuia celebrates the winning goal. FSDL/ISL MEDIA

Lalengmawia Ralte (Apuia) pulled off a stunning goal late in added time to help Mohun Bagan Super Giant complete a 2-0 win against Jamshedpur FC in the second leg of the semifinal of ISL at Salt Lake Stadium here on Monday.

The result tilted the aggregate 3-2 in favour of Bagan, which had lost the first leg 1-2 in Jamshedpur, and secured its place in ISL final for a third straight time.

After a barren first half, the home team went ahead in the 51st when Jason Cummings converted a penalty before Apuia scored the spectacular goal in the fourth minute of added time.

Bagan will face Bengaluru FC in the title clash to be held at the same venue on April 12.

Resolute defence

Jamshedpur put up a resolute defence frustrating Bagan's efforts of finding an early break.

This continued for the length of the opening half as the host mounted relentless attacks just to find them dying in the Jamshedpur box.

The visitor stationed eight to nine men in front of its goal and this effectively offset MBSG's offensive plans.

JFC goalkeeper Albino Gomes put in a fantastic performance under the bar and produced four good saves when the opposition forwardline were able to break free.

Change of fortunes

The change of ends transformed the Mariners' fortunes as the host earned a penalty in the 50th minute when the Jamshedpur defender Pronoy Halder was hauled up for handling the ball.

Cummings scored from the spot to get the back in the game. The host finally managed to find the second goal after a series of failed attempts when Apuia found the net with a brilliant finish a minute before the long whistle.

The result:
Mohun Bagan SG 2 (Cummings 51-pen, Apuia 90+4) bt Jamshedpur FC 0.
(Aggregate 3-2)

Rudrankksh claims air rifle gold

Another success: It was Rudrankksh's second World Cup triumph. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Former World champion Rudrankksh Patil beat multiple gold medallist Istvan Peni by 1.2 points to clinch the air rifle gold in the shooting World Cup in Buenos Aires on Sunday.

In a thrilling final, the 21-year-old Rudrankksh delivered 10.4 and 10.8 on the last two shots to retain his supremacy against the seven-time World Cup gold medallist Istvan, who had earlier won the rifle 3-position gold. Istvan also shot 10.6 and 10.6 on the last two shots, and it was the earlier lead that kept Rudrankksh in front, after the 24-shot final.

While Rudrankksh added to his earlier individual World Cup gold won in Cairo in 2023, Arjun Babuta did well to top qualification with 634.5. However, Arjun, who had placed fourth in the Paris Olympics, finished seventh. Incidentally, Rudrankksh had shot the second best qualification score of 633.7. It was the second gold for India in the ongoing World Cup following the one won by Sift Kaur Samra in women's rifle 3-position event.

India was joint No.1 with China on the medals table with two gold, a silver and a bronze. USA followed with two gold and a silver, while Hungary has so far won a gold and a silver, both through Istvan.

The results: 10m air rifle: 1. Rudrankksh Patil 252.9 (633.7), 2. Istvan Peni (Hun) 251.(630.3), 3. Marcelo Gutierrez (Arg) 230.1 (631.4); 7. Arjun Babuta 144.9 (634.5); 29. Hriday Hazarika 624.6; RPO: Kiran Jadhav 631.5; Divyansh Singh Panwar 628.0.

Juventus misses entering top four in Serie A

On target: Shomurodov, third from right, slots in Roma's equaliser against Juventus. AFP

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MILAN

Juventus missed the chance to move into Serie A's Champions League positions on Sunday after being held to a 1-1 draw at fellow top four hopeful Roma. Igor Tudor's team stays fifth, level on 56 with fourth-placed Bologna in a tight battle for a spot in Europe's elite competition.

Eldor Shomurodov earned Roma a point four minutes after the break with his sixth goal of the season.

The results: LaLiga: Valladolid 0 lost to Getafe 4 (Arambarri 1, Terrats 19, 38, Duarte 80); Villarreal 0 drew with Athletic Bilbao 0. **Serie A:** Empoli 0 drew with Cagliari 0; Lecce 1 (Baschirotto 65) drew with Venezia 1 (Gallo 50-og); Roma 1 (Shomurodov 49) drew with Juventus 1 (Locatelli 40); Torino 1 (Elmas 67) drew with Verona 1 (Sarr 64). **Bundesliga:** Union Berlin 1 (Hollerbach 63) bt Wolfsburg 0; St. Pauli 1 (Afolayan 85) drew with Borussia Moenchengladbach 1 (Itakura 45+2).

Will the Indian girls make the cut this time at home?

Sports Bureau
PUNE

It will be a test of fire for India to ride on home advantage, and its collective strength as a team, in the Asia-Oceania Billie Jean King Cup tennis championship to be played at the Balewadi Stadium from Tuesday.

More than the top quality opponents from New Zealand, Thailand, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong, heat could be a major factor in testing the resilience of the Indian team in its attempt to qualify for the next stage.

Captain Vishal Uppal has done very well to prepare the team of Ankita Raina, Sahaja Yamalapalli, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Vaidehi Chaudhari, Prarthana Thombare and the young reserve Maaya Rajeshwaran.

India will be playing the opening match, in the round robin format, against New Zealand on Tuesday. Unlike the Kiwi team, which may rely heavily on Lulu Sun, India has three players ranked close to the top 300, who can pull their weight whenever called to serve the team's cause.

Moreover, India could have the trump card in doubles with the superb combination of Ankita and Prarthana.

Such team combinations are often decided on the strength of the doubles, and India could be second to none in that department.

In Shrivalli and Sahaja, the team has two explosive players, who are maturing well into all-round players, capable of facing the challenge from players of different style and craft.

It should not be a surprise if the two play a big role in taking the team forward.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Triumphant: Nitte Meenakshi IT, that won the VTU Bengaluru North Division football tournament at Nagarjuna CoE.

Zodiac takes honours

Zodiac CC defeated Friends Union Cricketers (KGF) in the final to emerge as the KSCA Group I, Division V league tournament champion.
The scores: Zodiac CC 268/9 in 50 overs (Gnane 84, Pavan Yadav 76, M. Karthik 44, B.S. Chethan 3/46) bt Friends Union Cricketers (KGF) 218 in 44.5 overs (Nitish Dahiya 25, K.Y. Arjun 61, M. Rajesh 31, R. Gangadhar 30, Shoheb Pasha 4/43).

FC Deccan posts win

FC Deccan defeated Snipers FC 4-2 in the BDFA 'A' Division football league on Monday.
The results:
Income Tax FC 1 (M. Pandiyan 28) drew with Blitz FC 1 (Mrunal Gowda 80); FC Deccan 4 (Godwin Joy 31, 60, Prajwal Gowda 47, H.S. Singh 77) bt Snipers FC 2 (Arjun Rudy 21, Amal Suresh 40).

Sporting Club Bengaluru relegated

Sporting Club Bengaluru was relegated to I-League 2 after finishing 11th out of 12 teams (21 points from 22 matches) in the just-concluded I-League.

SCB collected just a point from its last two matches – a 2-2 draw against Sreenidi Deccan in the final round and a 1-2 reverse to Namdhari prior to that – meaning it had no way to pip 10th-placed Aizawl FC (23 points) to survive.

Real Madrid and PSG face English tests in the Champions League quarterfinals

Associated Press
LONDON

Key player: Mbappe would be crucial to Real's fortunes in the quarterfinals against Arsenal. REUTERS

Two English clubs stand in the way of a Champions League semifinal between Real Madrid with Kylian Mbappe and his long-time previous team Paris Saint-Germain.

Mbappe and Madrid are at Arsenal on Tuesday for the first leg of their quarterfinal. The return game is on April 16. PSG hosts Aston Villa on Wednesday.

The new Champions League format with a tennis-style seeded knockout bracket set through to the final put those four teams in the same half of the draw. Madrid already won six of the past 11 Champions League titles even before adding Mbappe for this season when his contract in Paris expired.

Mbappe and defender Antonio Rudiger were cleared Friday by UEFA to play in London. Their one-game bans for excessive celebrations were deferred for one-year probationary periods. PSG has never been European champion – and reached just one final in seven seasons with Mbappe – yet looked the most impressive team in the round of 16, eliminating Liverpool.

The bottom half of the draw has three domestic league leaders and one team struggling in eighth place in its standings.

Bayern Munich hosts Inter Milan on Tuesday in the stadium that stages the final on May 31.

Barcelona starts heavily favoured on Wednesday at home to Borussia Dortmund, which might need to win this Champions League just to get an entry into the next one. The match brings together the competition's two top scorers – plus Robert Lewandowski. Raphinha has 11 for Barcelona and Dortmund forward Serhou Guirassy has 10, tied with Harry Kane's tally for Bayern.

Inter beat Bayern in the 2010 final when two goals by Diego Milito helped complete a trophy treble for coach Jose Mourinho's team.

Inter also has been back to the final more recently in 2023, a hard-luck 1-0 loss against Manchester City.

Quarterfinals schedule
Arsenal vs. Real Madrid and Bayern Munich vs. Inter Milan (April 9, 1:30 a.m. IST)
Paris Saint-Germain vs. Aston Villa and Barcelona vs. Borussia Dortmund (April 10, 1:30 a.m. IST)

Djokovic to headline Laureus Awards

Press Trust of India
MADRID

The 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic will be the centre of attraction among the bevy of stars who would descend on the Spanish capital for the Laureus World Sports Awards. This is the 25th anniversary of the 'athletes' awards'.

Five-time Laureus World Sportsman of the Year, Djokovic said: "It is exciting to be back in Madrid again to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Laureus World Sports Awards.

Cricketing great Steve Waugh will also be present.